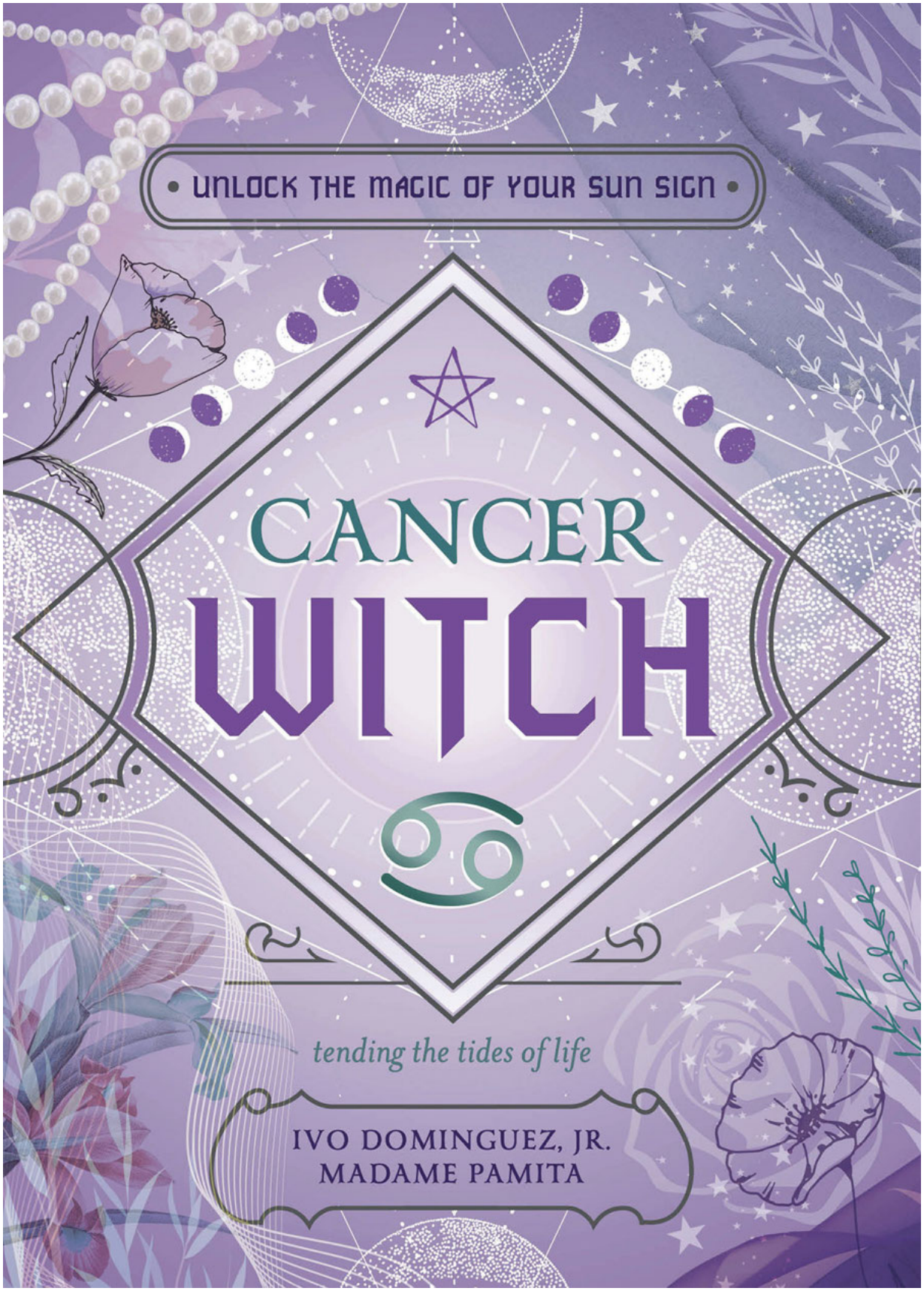
• UNLOCK THE MAGIC OF YOUR SUN SIGN •

CANCER WITCH

tending the tides of life

IVO DOMINGUEZ, JR.
MADAME PAMITA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About the Authors

Ivo Dominguez, Jr. (Georgetown, DE) has been active in the magickal community since 1978. He is one of the founders of Keepers of the Holly Chalice, the first Assembly of the Sacred Wheel coven. He currently serves as one of the Elders in the Assembly. Ivo is the author of several books, including The Four Elements of the Wise and Practical Astrology

for Witches and Pagans. In his mundane life, he has been a computer programmer, the executive director of an AIDS/HIV service organization, a bookstore owner, and many other things. Visit him at www.ivodominguezjr.com.

Madame Pamita is a Ukrainian diaspora witch, teacher, author, candlemaker, spellcaster, and tarot reader. She has a popular YouTube channel for teaching witchcraft, she hosts the Magic and the Law of

Attraction and Baba Yaga's Magic podcasts, and she is the author of Baba Yaga's Book of Witchcraft, The Book of Candle Magic, and Madame Pamita's Magical Tarot. She is also the proprietress of the online spiritual apothecary the Parlour of Wonders and lives in Santa Monica, California. Visit her at parlourofwonders.com.

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IVO DOMINGUEZ, JR.
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Introduction

Ivo Dominguez, Jr.

This is the fourth book in the Witch's Sun Sign series. There are twelve volumes in this series with a book for every Sun sign, but with a special focus on witchcraft. This series explores and honors the gifts, perspectives, and joys of being a witch through the perspective of their Sun sign. Each book has information on how your sign affects your magick and life experiences with insights provided by witches of your Sun sign, as well as spells, rituals, and practices to enrich your witchcraft. This series is geared toward helping witches grow, develop, and integrate the power of their Sun sign into all their practices. Each book in the series has ten writers, so there are many takes on the meaning of being a witch of a particular sign. All the books in the Witch's Sun Sign series are a sampler of possibilities, with pieces that are deep, fun, practical, healing, instructive, revealing, and authentic.

Welcome to the Cancer Witch

I'm Ivo Dominguez, Jr., and I've been a witch and an astrologer for over forty years. In this book, and in the whole series, I've written the chapters focused on astrological information and collaborated with the other writers. For the sake of transparency, I am a Sagittarius, and the majority of the other writers for this book are Cancers.[1] The chapters focused on the lived experiences of being a Cancer witch were written by my coauthor, Madame Pamita, who is a teacher, candlemaker, spellcaster, tarot reader, and Ukrainian diaspora witch. The spells and shorter pieces written for this book come from a diverse group of strong Cancer witches. Their practices will give you a deeper understanding of yourself as a Cancer and as a witch.

With the information, insights, and methods offered here, your Cancer nature and your witchcraft will be better united. The work of becoming fully yourself entails finding, refining, and merging all the parts that make your life and identity. This all sounds very serious, but the content of this book will run from lighthearted to profound to do justice to the topic. Moreover, this book has practical suggestions on using the power of your Sun sign to improve your craft as a witch. There are many books on Cancer or astrology or witchcraft; this book is about wholeheartedly being a Cancer witch.

There is a vast amount of material available in books, blogs, memes, and videos targeted at Cancer. The content presented in these ranges from serious to snarky, and a fair amount of it is less than accurate or useful. After reading this book, you will be better equipped to tell which of these you can take to heart and use, and which are fine for a laugh but not much more. There is a good chance you will be flipping back to reread some chapters to get a better understanding of some of the points being made. This book is meant to be read more than once, and some parts of it may become reference material you will use for years. Consider keeping a folder, digital or paper, for your notes and ideas on being a Cancer witch.

What You Will Need

Knowing your Sun sign is enough to get quite a bit out of this book. However, to use all the material in this book, you will need your birth chart to verify your Moon sign and rising sign. In addition to your birth date, you will need the location and the time of your birth as exactly as possible. If you don't know your birth time, try to get a copy of your birth certificate (though not all birth certificates list times). If it is reasonable and you feel comfortable, you can ask family members for information. They may remember an exact time, but even narrowing it down to a range of hours will be useful.

There is a solution to not having your exact birth time. Since it takes moments to create birth charts using software, you can run birth charts that

are thirty minutes apart over the span of hours that contain your possible birth times. By reading the chapters that describe the characteristics of Moon signs and rising signs, you can reduce the pile of possible charts to a few contenders. Read the descriptions and find the chart whose combination of Moon sign and rising sign rings true to you.

There are more refined techniques a professional astrologer can use to get closer to a chart that is more accurate. However, knowing your Sun sign, Moon sign, and rising is all you need for this book. There are numerous websites that offer free basic birth charts you can view online. For a fee, more detailed charts are available on these sites.

You may want to have an astrological wall calendar or an astrological day planner to keep track of the sign and phase of the Moon. You will want to keep track of what your ruling planet, the Moon, is doing. Over time as your knowledge grows, you'll probably start looking at where all the planets are, what aspects they are making, and when they are retrograde or direct. You could do this all on an app or a website, but it is often easier to flip through a calendar or planner to see what is going on. Flipping forward and back through the weeks and months ahead can give you a better sense of how to prepare for upcoming celestial influences. Moreover, the calendars and planner contain basic background information about astrology and are a great start for studying astrology.

You're a Cancer and So Much More

Every person is unique, complex, and a mixture of traits that can clash, complement, compete, or collaborate with each other. This book focuses on your Cancer Sun sign and provides starting points for understanding your Moon sign and rising sign. It cannot answer all your questions or be a perfect fit because of all the other parts that make you an individual. However, you will find more than enough to enrich and deepen your witchcraft as a Cancer. There will also be descriptions you won't agree with or that you think do not portray you. In some instances, you will be correct, and in other cases, you may come around to acknowledging that the

information does apply to you. Astrology can be used for magick, divination, personal development, and more. No matter the purpose, your understanding of astrology will change over time as your life unfolds and your experience and self-knowledge broaden. You will probably return to this book several times as you find opportunities to use more of the insights and methods.

This may seem like strange advice to find in a book for the Cancer witch, but remember that you are more than a Cancer witch. In the process of claiming the identity of being a witch, it is common to want to have a clear and firm definition of who you are. Sometimes this means overidentifying with a category, such as water witch, herb witch, crystal witch, kitchen witch, and so on. It is useful to become aware of the affinities you have so long as you do not limit and bind yourself to being less than you are. The best use for this book is to uncover all the Cancer parts of you so you can integrate them well. The finest witches I know have well-developed specialties, but also are well rounded in their knowledge and practices.

Onward!

With all that said, the Sun is the starting point for your power and your journey as a witch. The first chapter is about the profound influence your Sun sign has, so don't skip through the table of contents; please start at the beginning. After that, Pamita will dive into magick and practices that come naturally to Cancer witches. I'll be walking you through the benefits of picking the right times, places, and things to energize your Cancer magick. Pamita will also share a couple of real-life personal stories on her ups and downs, as well as advice on the best ways to protect yourself spiritually and set good boundaries when you really need to. I'll introduce you to how your Moon sign and your rising sign shape your witchcraft. Pamita offers great stories about how her Cancer nature comes forward in her life as a witch, and then gives suggestions on self-care and self-awareness. I'll share a full ritual with you to call on the spirit of your sign. Lastly, Pamita offers her wisdom on how to become a better Cancer witch. Throughout the whole

book, you'll find tables of correspondences, spells, recipes, techniques, and other treasures to add to your practices.

[contents]

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1. The exceptions are Dawn Aurora Hunt, who contributes a recipe for each sign in the series, and Sandra Kynes, whose correspondences are listed in the appendix.

How Your Sun

Powers Your Magick

Ivo Dominguez, Jr.

The first bit of astrology people generally learn is their Sun sign. Some enthusiastically embrace the meaning of their Sun sign and apply it to everything in their life. They feel their Sun is shining and all is well in the world. Then at some point they'll encounter someone who will, with a bit of disdain, enlighten them on the limits of Sun sign astrology. They feel their Sun isn't enough, and they scramble to catch up. What comes next is usually the discovery that they have a Moon sign, a rising sign, and all the rest of the planets in an assortment of signs. Making sense of all this additional information is daunting as it requires quite a bit of learning and/or an astrologer to guide you through the process. Wherever you are on this journey into the world of astrology, at some point you will circle back around and rediscover that the Sun is still in the center.

The Sun in your birth chart shows where life and spirit came into the world to form you. It is the keeper of your spark of spirit and the wellspring of your power. Your Sun is in Cancer, so that is the flavor, the color, the type of energy that is at your core. You are your whole birth chart, but it is your Cancer Sun that provides the vital force that moves throughout all parts of your life. When you work in harmony and alignment with your Sun, you have access to more life and the capacity to live it better. This is true for all people, but this advice takes on a special meaning for those who are witches. The root of a witch's magick power is revealed by their Sun sign. You can draw on many kinds of energy, but the type of energy you attract with greatest ease is Cancer. The more awareness and intention you apply to connecting with and acting as a conduit for that Cancer Sun, the more effective you will be as a witch.

The more you learn about the meaning of a Cancer Sun, the easier it will be to find ways to make that connection. To be effective in magick, divination, and other categories of workings, it is vital to understand yourself—your motivations, drives, attractions—so you can refine your intentions, questions, and desired outcomes. Understanding your Sun sign is an important step in that process. One of the goals shared by both witchcraft and astrology is to affirm and to integrate the totality of your nature to live your best life. The glyph for the Sun in astrology is a dot with a circle around it. Your Cancer Sun is the dot and the circle, your center, and your circumference. It is your beginning and your journey. It is also the core of your personal Wheel of the Year, the seasons of your life that repeat, have resonances, but are never the same.

How Cancer Are You?

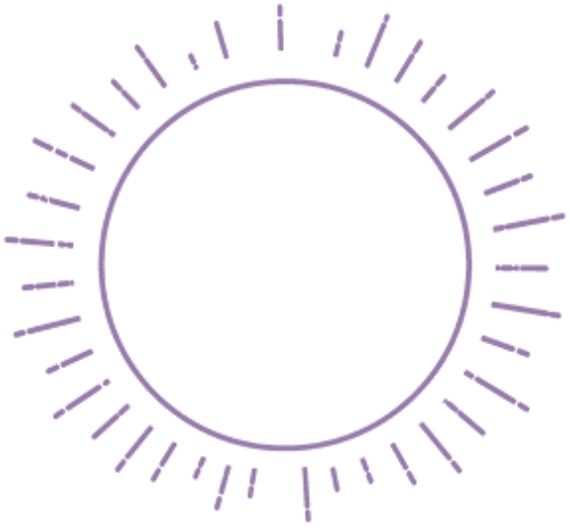
The Sun is the hub around which the planets circle. Its gravity pulls the planets to keep them in their courses and bends space-time to create the place we call our solar system. The Sun in your birth chart tugs on every other part of your chart in a similar way. Everything is both bound and free, affected but seeking its own direction. When people encounter descriptions of Cancer traits, they will often begin to make a list of which things apply to them and which don't. Some will say they are the epitome of Cancer traits, others will claim that they are barely Cancer, and many will be somewhere in between. Evaluating how closely or not you align with the traditional

characteristics of a Cancer is not a particularly useful approach to understanding your sign. If you are a Cancer, you have all the Cancer traits somewhere within you. What varies from person to person is the expression of those traits. Some traits express fully in a classic form, others are blocked from expressing or are modified, and sometimes there is a reaction to behave as the opposite of what is expected. As a Cancer, and especially as a witch, you have the capacity to activate dormant traits, to shape functioning traits, and to tone down overactive traits.

The characteristics and traits of signs are tendencies, drives, and affinities. Gravity encourages a ball to roll down a hill. A plant's leaves will grow in the direction of sunlight. The warmth of a fire will draw people together on a cold night. A flavor you enjoy will entice you to take another bite of your food. Your Cancer Sun urges you to be and to act like a Cancer. That said, you also have free will and volition to make other choices. Moreover, the rest of your birth chart and the ever-changing celestial influences are also shaping your options, moods, and drives. The more you become aware of the traits and behaviors that come with being a Cancer, the easier it will be to choose how you express them. For a Cancer, the power to manage your environment is the basis of your confidence.

As a witch, you have additional tools to work with the Cancer energy. You can choose when to access and how you shape the qualities of Cancer as they come forth in your life. You can summon the energy of Cancer, name the traits you desire, and manifest them. You can also banish or neutralize or ground what you don't need. You can find where your Cancer energy short-circuits, where it glitches, and unblock it. You can examine your uncomfortable feelings and your less-than-perfect behaviors to seek the shadowed places within so you can heal or integrate them. Cancer is also a spirit and a current of collective consciousness that is vast in size—a group mind and archetype. Cancer is not limited to humanity; it engages with plants, animals, minerals, and all the physical and nonphysical beings of the Earth and all its associated realms. As a witch, you can call upon and work with the spiritual entity that is Cancer. You can live your life as a ritual. The motion of your life can be a dance to the tune and rhythm of the heavens.

The Cancer Glyph



The glyph for Cancer has a few variants, but they all contain two circles or curls and can look like two commas or two sideways sixes or nines. With some imagination, you can see it as the body of a crab. It can be seen as representing an embrace. Some see it as the breasts of the cosmic mother. The glyph can also be interpreted as two pearls within a shell, which relates to the Cancerian need for a home to contain that which is the most precious. The swirling shape of the glyph also suggests the powerful emotional currents of this water sign. You can also see the glyph as denoting the turning dance of the Earth and the Moon. In the pictographic code of the astrological glyphs, circles represent spirit and semicircles represent soul. Spirit is the part of you that is eternal, and soul is the part that is shaped and changed by the experiences of incarnation. With the use of your imagination, you can see this glyph as a representation of how you create boundaries that protect you and limitations that diminish you. You are the push and pull of the Moon, the tides, and the Earth. The dual shapes in this glyph remind you that, although you may pull back into yourself, you don't stop feeling the call to draw others closer. Your heart is where magick enters you and flows through your world.

By meditating on the glyph, you will develop a deeper understanding of what it is to be a Cancer. You may also come up with your own personal

gnosis or story about the glyph that can be a key that is uniquely yours. The glyph for Cancer can be used as a sigil to call or concentrate its power. The glyph for Cancer can be used in a similar fashion to the scribing of an invoking pentacle that is used to open the gates to the elemental realms. However, instead of the elemental realms, this glyph opens the way to the realm of heart and spirit that is the source of Cancer. To make this glyph work, you need to deeply ingrain the feeling of scribing this glyph. Visually, it is a simple glyph, so memorizing it is easy, but having a kinesthetic feel for it turns it into magick. Spend some time doodling the glyph on paper. Try drawing the glyph on your palm with a finger for several repetitions as that adds several layers of sensation and memory patterns.

Whenever you need access to more of your magickal energy, scribe the Cancer glyph in your mind, on your hand, in the air—however you can. Then pull, channel, and feel your center fill with whatever you need. It takes very little time to open this connection using the glyph. Consider making this one of the practices you use to get ready to do divination, spell work, or ritual, or just to start your day.

Cancers understand that to love and be loved in return is the core of being human. Knowing this does not make it easier to achieve.

Cancers want to fully immerse themselves in their emotions. That desire for a hard protective shell and a home that is a sanctuary is about needing security to feel everything fully.

You've probably been called too sensitive. This is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of awareness of your environment and can be your greatest strength.

There is a difference between being protective and being defensive. When you are protective it is with measured purpose, and when you are being defensive it is a reaction that does not serve your needs.

Cancer lives on the shoreline where the subjective and the objective meet. You live in the place where your emotional impressions meet the rocky shore of reality. The successful crab learns to navigate both the waves and the hard boundaries.

You'll always be at home in the world when you realize that your shell should be your shelter and not your limitations. As you grow, you will need to shed it to grow a bigger one, despite the risk that entails.

Most Cancers show their care and love more by their actions than their words. This desire to nurture and protect is so strong that you can neglect yourself. Compassion for yourself will help you be around for your beloveds in the long run.

Astrology books often focus on the idea that Cancer is motherly and maternal. If that characterization fits you, embrace it, but the mothering aspect of Cancer is a facet of a much larger jewel. Nurturing, caretaking, teaching, encouraging aspirations, offering validation, coaching, and the whole spectrum of activities that help preserve and better another person's life are also part of Cancer. Name your own roles.

Many Cancers are sentimental about objects and possessions that have history and memories attached to them. You see these as vessels for meaning and embrace them as containers for the safekeeping of emotional legacies.

Often there is an interest in the preservation of history, art, architecture, and so on as an expansion of the concept of home and hearth to include culture.

Your ruling planet, the Moon, moves quickly through the signs and changes phases. Your state of mind and your mood are strongly affected by the changeable Moon.

It is crucial that you fully process your emotions and your memories of emotions because you never let go of them. When they are fully sorted out, you can find peace, or at the least an accommodation with them that lets you proceed with the flow of your life.

Cancers generally need more time and space to deal with conflict or emotionally stressful situations. Make the effort to let people close to you know that unless you have time and space, nothing will be resolved.

Privacy is very important to you, and you are good at keeping other people's secrets.

In an emergency, you jump in and do what is needed. You will bottle up your feelings until the crisis has passed.

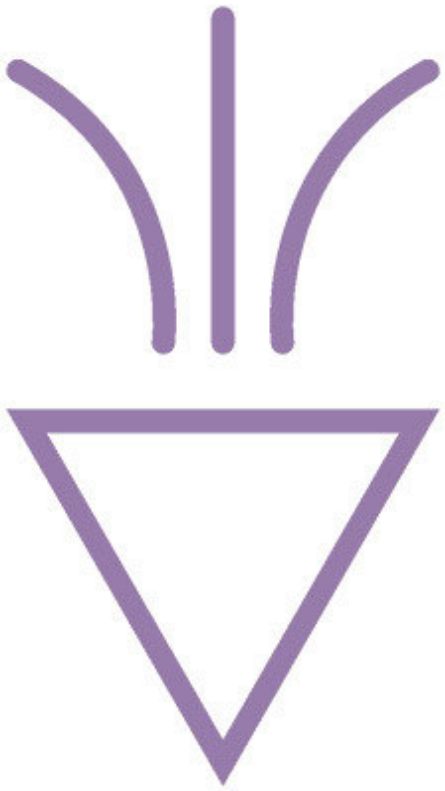
The Cancer energy and mindset is powerful; you are the first water sign. If you allow yourself to see the power of primal water and feel it, you'll see what a big impact you have on the people in your world.

Your nurturing, nourishing, and sometimes overwhelming care of others can be too much, even if it is a positive thing. Life will be easier if you give others space as well.

Your intuition is deep, strong, and you feel it in your gut. Listen to it even if you have no words or reasons to explain your guidance.

You are creative because you see the beauty and potential hidden within everything.

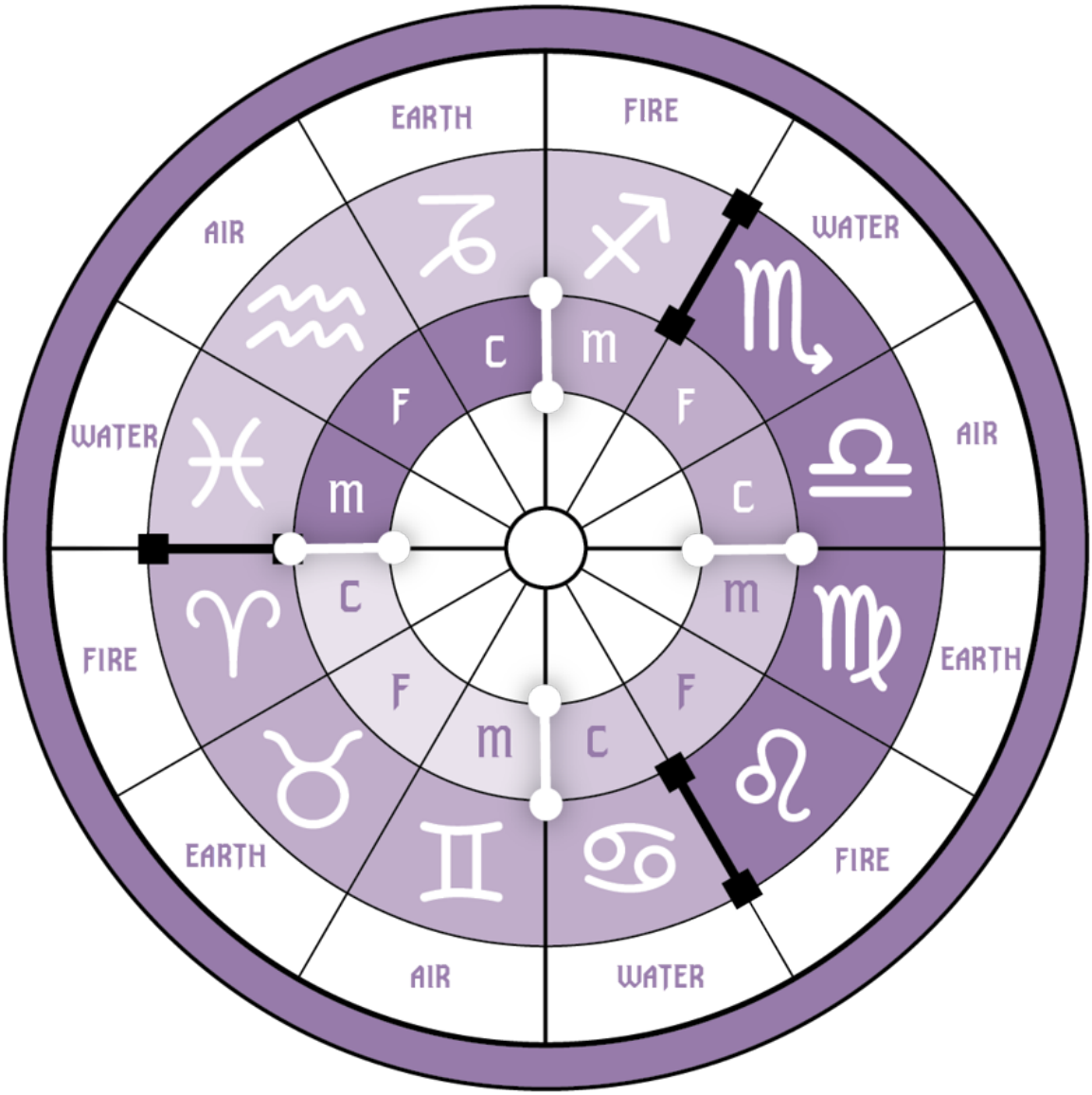
Cardinal Water



The four elements come in sets of three. The modalities known as cardinal, fixed, and mutable are three different flavors or styles of manifestation for the elements. The twelvefold pattern that is the backbone of astrology comes from the twelve combinations produced from four elements times three modalities. As you go around the wheel of the zodiac, the order of the elements is always fire, earth, air, then water, while the modalities are always in the order of cardinal, fixed, then mutable. Each season begins in the cardinal modality, reaches its peak in the fixed modality, and transforms to the next season in the mutable modality. The cardinal modality is the energy of creation bursting forth, coming into being, and spreading throughout the world. The fixed modality is the harmonization of energy so that it becomes and remains fully itself and is preserved. Fixed does not mean static or passive; it is the work of maintaining creation. The mutable modality is the energy of flux that is flexibility, transformation, death, and rebirth.

Cancer is the fourth sign in the zodiac, so it is water of the cardinal modality. This is why a Cancer witch can call upon deep reserves of emotional energy and the ability to push back, persevere, and grow with the challenges of

living. Although as a Cancer witch you can call upon water in all its forms, it is easiest to draw upon cardinal water.



The elements and modalities on the wheel

The Moon, Your Ruling Planet

Your Sun sign determines the source and the type of energy that you have in your core. The ruling planet for a sign reveals your go-to moves and your intuitive or habitual responses for expressing that energy. Your ruling planet provides a curated set of prebuilt responses and custom-tailored stances for you to use in day-to-day life. The Moon is the ruling planet for Cancer. This may bring to mind a whole host of lunar goddesses and a few who are gods or nonbinary. This wide range of lunar deities has highly varied characteristics, but what is common to all of them is cycles of change. The Moon is always moving through its phases and through all twelve signs every full cycle. This means that you get to observe and to feel the world through many perspectives. The Moon is the giver and the shaper of much of the magick that witches can access. “Moonchild” is another name applied to those born under the sign of Cancer. The influence of the Moon makes Cancer seek meaning through the connection with others and the deepest parts of themselves.

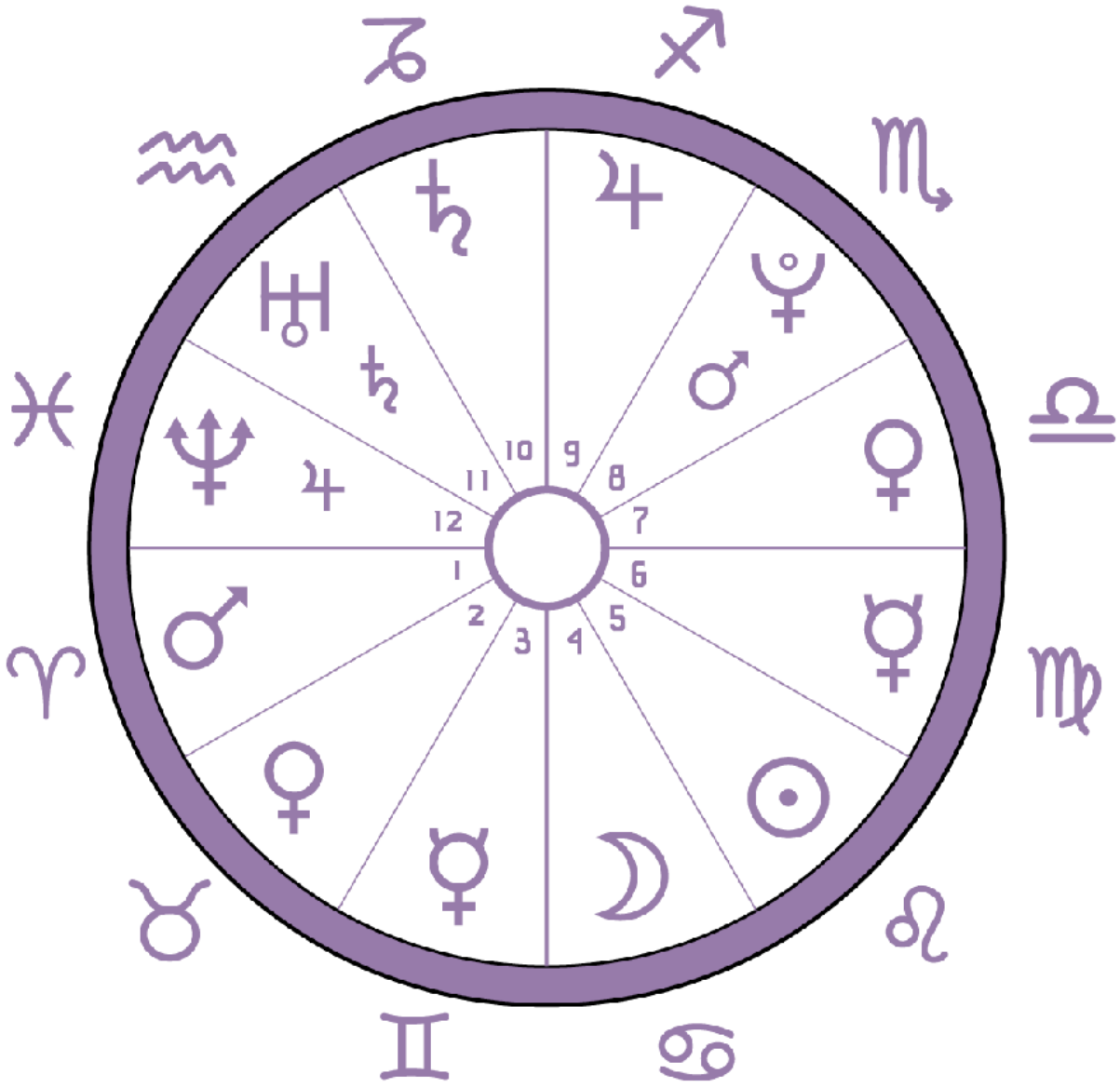
Cancer witches are more strongly affected by whatever the Moon is doing in the heavens. Examine how you feel as the Moon passes through all the phases and all the signs. You may also have a special connection to the phase of the Moon when you were born. It is also useful to keep track of the aspects the Moon is making with other planets, especially for spell work. You can get basic information on what aspects mean and when they are happening from astrological calendars and online resources. When the Moon in the heavens is in Cancer, you will feel an extra boost of energy. The first step to using the power of the Moon is to pay attention to what it is doing, how you feel, and what is happening in your life.

Witches have the gift to shift their relationship with the powers they work with and the powers that influence them. By paying close attention to how those energies affect you, it becomes possible to harness those energies to cause the changes you desire. The Moon can be as great a source of energy for a Cancer witch as the element of water. Although there is some overlap between the qualities and capacities assigned to the Moon and water, the differences are greater. The Moon sorts through experiences and applies emotional responses to determine their meaning, value, and context. Water is the medium that responds to and reflects the world to produce emotions and their movement. The Moon collects and condenses the flow of emotions and stores them, combines them, and produces emotionally laden memories and instinctive responses that are essentially summaries of feelings over time. Water connects the souls and spirits of all beings at the level of the formative and sustaining powers of life and gives them purpose. The Moon is creative, destructive, transformative, and the process of manifestation. Water is the medium of life that remains itself no matter what form or container it is given. Over time, you can map out the overlapping regions and the differences between the Moon and water. Using both planetary and elemental resources can give you a much broader range and more finesse.

Cancer and the Zodiacal Wheel

The order of the signs in the zodiac can be seen as a creation story. The first third of the zodiac is the first appearance of the four elements in the story of the universe. They are fresh from the maelstrom of creation; they are closest to the source. The water of Cancer is the most primal of all the versions of the element of water. You can make progress in this quest through meditation and inner journeys, but that alone will not do. The Cancer witch learns through cycles of experience, and that means leaving your comfort zone, exploring despite fears, and then returning home with the wisdom gained in your quest. When you can learn to be truly yourself in the presence of others, then you will know your heart. Although Cancer is sometimes stereotyped as moody, sensitive, and easy to hurt, it is more accurate to say that Cancers are trying to be emotionally honest and have a sense of how things could be and should be if the world were kinder. When a Cancer

witch connects to the spiritual qualities of their water, they become a healer of hearts, a protector of life, and a preserver of culture.



The sign and planet rulers on zodiac wheel

Power: To Feel

Keyword: Containment

Roles: Protector, Nuturer, Sustainer

Ruling Planet: Moon

Element: Cardinal Water

Colors: White and Violet

Shape: Nonagon

Metal: Silver

Body Parts Ruled: Breasts, Stomach

Day of the Week: Monday

Affirmation:

I open my heart to heal, not to judge.

[contents]

Witchcraft That Comes

Naturally to a Cancer

Madame Pamita

Ah, to be a Cancer witch. Every other sign should be so lucky. I remember when I was a young teen witchling still trying to figure out what it meant to be a Moonchild, I had the audacity to say to my brilliant astrologer friend, "I'm not really a Cancer." To me, being a water sign meant being a drip. She wisely said to me, "You're just a Cancer in denial." As I grew older and wiser, at least in this area, I realized that she was absolutely right. I really began to embrace my Cancerishness. I am now to the point that I really embody all the great and sometimes even the cheesy things that make us the most magical sign in the zodiac. Did I just say that? Yes, I sure did, and by the time you finish this book, you'll be embracing all your wonderful qualities and complicated challenges and be proud to be a Cancer witch too, even on the slim chance you're a Cancer in denial now.

What makes us so special is that we have so much dang magic to choose from. You don't have to do it all, but here are just some of the places where your natural gifts and talents will shine.

Intuition

Cancers are water signs, and all water signs are born with an innate gift of intuition. What does it mean to be intuitive? It means that you can suss out a situation and get messages from within that can guide you on what's happening behind the scenes. Intuitive hits can be literal, like when you get

goose bumps looking at that dark lonely street and decide to take a different route. The problem for Cancers is that we don't always know when that intuitive sense is working. For example, if you listen to your intuition and take a walk down a safer street, you will never get the confirmation that something bad would have happened to you if you had stuck to the original route. It's only when we don't listen to our intuition that we get the confirmation. If you've ever said to yourself, "I knew I shouldn't have done that …" you just might be a Cancer witch.

So, how can we develop this intuition and get it so that it works the way we want it to? First, you need to discern what your intuitive signals are. When it comes to this, every Cancer witch is different. You might feel a physical sensation such as the goose bumps I mentioned before, or a tightness in a certain part of your body, or a warm flushing like a blush. Start to pay attention when your body tells you what you should be paying attention to.

You might get a different message; it might be a flash of a visual image, or an inner voice telling you yes or no, or an emotional feeling that something great is headed your way, or a sense that something is "off" in what someone is telling you. Take note when you have one of these reactions that strongly support or contradict the physical reality around you. When you start paying attention to your intuitive messages, your intuition will get stronger.

Psychic Ability

Another thing Cancers excel at is psychic ability. How is psychic ability different from intuition? In my mental dictionary, psychic ability is the gift of being able to get information that doesn't have a physical source. For comparison, if you see your friend and sense that something is awry even though everything seems normal, that is intuition. You may intuitively pick up on a new nervous tic or an emotional energy that feels different.

Psychic ability, on the other hand, is about sensing information without a real-world physical source. Prophecy, ESP, and foretelling the future all fall

under the concept of psychic ability. Some Cancer witches use divination tools to access this gift, such as tarot cards or tea leaves, others dream prophetic dreams, and still others may have the gift of remote viewing or being able to read the thoughts of someone far away. If you've ever thought of a friend you haven't contacted in a while and then suddenly receive a phone call from them, then you know you have access to a Cancer's natural psychic ability.

Ancestor Work

Working with spirits can be part of any Cancer witch's practice, but we especially excel at anything to do with family and the past, and that means ancestor work. Your ancestors are your loved ones who have left the building, as it were. In many traditional spiritual practices, we view these ancestors as active members of the family, the really extended family. It doesn't matter whether they are your beloved Great-Aunt Mathilda, your adoptive grandparents, or your ancient ancestor going back twenty generations—they are all family.

As a Cancer, you're probably the one planning the family reunions in real life, so why not extend that to the spirit world? Setting up an ancestor altar with photos or symbols of your ancestors and some candles, flowers, or some favorite treats they enjoyed while they were alive will help you grow a relationship with them.

Mediumship can also be part of ancestor work. Whether you connect with your family spirits or develop your skills so that you can get spirit messages from other people's loved ones, you may have a knack for communicating with those who are beyond the veil.

Water Magic

Cancer is the cardinal water sign, so, naturally, we are going to take to this type of magic like a mermaid to an underwater sea cavern. Doing cleansing rituals (we'll talk more in depth about these in the chapter Cleansing and Healing), scrying in water, blessing water, creating sacred baths, or doing water divination—at least one of these has a good chance of being in your top five forms of magic.

Working with waters can also extend to connecting deeply to natural waters: springs, rivers, streams, swamps, wells, lakes, ponds, and, of course, the sea—all can be sources of renewal and energy for Cancer witches. Spending time in or near the water can bring back our physical energy and magical powers whenever we have that Cancerian tendency to overgive.

For witches who connect to spirits and deities, the water folk are going to hold a special place in our hearts. Goddesses such as Aphrodite (Greek), Yemoja (Yoruban), Nammu (Mesopotamian), Brigid (Irish), Danu (Hindu-Vedic), Mazu (Chinese), Chalchiuhtlicue (Aztec), and Mama Wata (Pan-African/African Diaspora) and gods such as Osiris (Egyptian), Neptune (Roman), and Kanaloa (Hawaiian) are just a few of the many deities associated with water. In practically every culture, there are water gods and goddesses with whom Cancer witches may feel an extra affinity. It's possible to create even closer connections to water spirits such as the Rusalky (Slavic), Nixies (Norse-Germanic), Selkies (Scottish), Nommo (Dogon), and Soyiitapi (Blackfeet), for example. These spirits move in and out of the physical dimension and can be a connection to the otherworlds for Cancer witches who have a desire to connect to magical realms.

Healing Spells

As the nurturers of the zodiac, we naturally want to help when we see a loved one in distress. Whether they need physical, emotional, or spiritual healing, we like to show up with the equivalent of a pot of chicken soup. Some Cancer witches gravitate to and are adept at alternative modalities of healing, such as Reiki, massage therapy, or hypnosis. Cancers also make compassionate therapists, and they often blend spirituality with the

traditional mental health care they offer. Still others are quite good at doing spells for those who are suffering.

Healing magic can be direct, such as knowing what herbs can have a positive impact on disease, or indirect, such as lighting a candle spell so that someone gets the right information, healers, or treatments for what's ailing them. What makes Cancers so good at all these forms of healing is their natural caring nature and compassion for others.

Kitchen Witchery

Cancer witches are probably tied with Taurus witches when it comes to having innate skills in kitchen witchery. Cooking is a passion for many Cancers, as it combines our love of home with our love of nurturing ourselves and others with food. We seem to have a knack for putting that special ingredient of love into what we make, and when you add intention to something mundane, well, that's witchcraft. When you mix in a spiritual element with your cooking, you are doing some serious kitchen witchery.

It's actually not that hard to bring some kitchen magic into your witchcraft. Spices can season foods, but they also have magical properties we can activate when we use them in cooking. Herbal teas can be transformed into potions with a little "bibbidi-bobbidi-boo." And knowing a few magical recipes for bringing in more love, inviting success, or simply making a party more festive is a great thing to have in your witchy bag of tricks.

As a kitchen witch, you can also turn everyday household items into powerful magical tools. That wooden spoon you use for stirring your famous tomato sauce? Use a wood burning tool to carve some sigils, words, or symbols into it, and all of a sudden it's no longer simply a mundane kitchen implement, but a wand that turns every meal into magic. Including magic in your daily tasks will make them more interesting and creative and will also make your life more fulfilling. And it most certainly will have a positive impact on the energy of your home.

Creating a home that feels like a safe haven for your magic can also be part of being a Cancer witch and is also an extension of being a kitchen witch. Discovering ways to sprinkle a touch of magic in every nook and cranny of your house will make it feel like the oasis of peace, love, and magic every Cancer craves.

Past Lives

Cancers love history, so exploring past lives is a skill many Cancer witches find captivating. For witches who believe in reincarnation, there is a natural curiosity about who you were before you were born into this body. There are numerous ways to discover your origin story. You might get an inkling of a past life by having an otherwise inexplicable fascination with a certain culture or time period, for example.

However, if you'd like to dive deeper and get more details, you can do a past-life regression with the help of a hypnotherapist. If you'd like to do it yourself, you can find a past-life regression guided meditation or do your own visualization. If you're a tarot reader, you can ask the question of the cards and see what hints they give you. There are other lovely decks that can help specifically with discovering your past lives. Two of my favorite go-tos are the independently published It's Your Karma deck and Carolyn Myss's Archetype Cards. Working with these can start you on the path of discovering who you were before you landed here and can give you insight into your current lifetime and help heal unexplained trauma.

Traditional Magical Paths

That love of history I just mentioned also makes Cancers very adept at traditional magic. That doesn't mean you can't invent something new, improve on something, or blaze your own trail—it just means that underneath whatever magical innovations you come up with will be a solid

foundation of time-tested traditional magic. We might be the cardinal sign getting the party started, but we don't need to reinvent the wheel.

Cancer witches can find that they want to know all the lore behind their magic. They can channel that into a love of ceremonial magic with its ancient rituals, old grimoires, and alchemical formulae. Other Cancer witches may gravitate toward old folk magic systems, Pagan practices, and animistic beliefs. Still others may simply do the magical things that were passed down to them through their families.

A Cancer witch thrives on knowing the old ways. Give a Cancer witch a vintage out-of-print tarot deck, a dusty old tome filled with recipes for long-forgotten potions, or an antique chalice from the 1800s, and you may just have a friend for life.

Cancer Witchcraft

Whatever witchcraft paths you decide to explore, know that you are not limited to just the magic I mentioned in this chapter. As Cancers, we like to flow and evolve, so allow yourself to try out, look into, and sample any magical flavors that strike your fancy. Whatever kind of magic you get into, you'll always bring your secret ingredients: your compassionate heart and your mystical soul.

As a Cancer, you'll find there are certain kinds of magical workings that see

Comfy Home Spell for Traveling Cancers

To begin, select an anchor piece.

This piece could be a crystal, a figurine, a small picture, and so on. As you'll be traveling with this piece, you'll want it to be something small, but not too small so that it runs the risk of being lost.

Keep this anchor piece in a central part of your home, even if you're not traveling for a while, such as on a coffee table, bookshelf, or end table in an area of your home that sees a lot of traffic. This way, the piece is exposed to

your home's energy flow. Be sure that when you do your home cleansings, you also cleanse your anchor piece.

When it's time to travel, be sure to pack your anchor piece!

Once you're in your temporary space, wake up your anchor piece by murmuring to it, letting it know where you are, and ask it to invoke the energies of home. Walk around your space with your anchor piece, allowing those blessed energies of home to touch the place you are staying. Announce to the space that this is your home for the time being. If you struggle to find the words, here is an incantation you can use:

From that day to this,

This space be mine,

With love and bliss,

My home divine.

Keep the anchor in a central area of your temporary living space.

When it's time to go home …

Pack the anchor first (along with the souvenirs you got for your partner, friends, and cats because you know you felt soooooooo bad for leaving them alone for seventy-two hours).

You're home!

Before you dote on everyone and everything who missed you, put that anchor back in its central place to charge up before your next trip!

Types of Spellcraft

Scrying (especially water scyring)

Mediumship

Spiritual cleansing

Kitchen witchery

Ancestor magic

Tea leaf reading

Magical Tools

Chalice

Spiritual oils

Potions

Spiritual baths

Sacred waters

Magical foods

Magical Goals and Spell Ideas

Intuitive divination

Love magic (love of all kinds)

Psychic spells

Emotional healing magic

Fertility magic

Past-life exploration

Abundance magic

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Timing, Places, and Things

Ivo Dominguez, Jr.

You've probably encountered plenty of charts and lists in books and online, cataloging which things relate to your Sun sign and ruling planet. There are many gorgeously curated assortments of herbs, crystals, music playlists, fashions, sports, fictional characters, tarot cards, and more that are assigned to your Sun sign. These compilations of associations are more than a curiosity or for entertainment. Correspondences are like treasure maps to show you where to find the type and flavor of power you are seeking. Correspondences are flowcharts and diagrams that show the inner occult relationships between subtle energies and the physical world. Although there are many purposes for lists of correspondences, there are two that are especially valuable to becoming a better Cancer witch. The first is to contemplate the meaning of the correspondences, the ways in which they reveal meaningful details about your Sun sign and ruling planet, and how they connect to you. This will deepen your understanding of what it is to be a Cancer witch. The second is to use these items as points of connection to access energies and essences that support your witchcraft. This will expand the number of tools and resources at your disposal for all your efforts.

Each of the sections in this chapter will introduce you to a type of correlation with suggestions on how to identify and use it. These are just starting points, and you will find many more as you explore and learn more. As you broaden your knowledge, you may find yourself a little bit confused as you find that sources disagree on the correlations. These contradictions are generally not a matter of who is in error but a matter of perspective, cultural differences, and the intended uses for the correlations. Anything that exists in the physical world can be described as a mixture of all the elements, planets, and signs. You may be a Cancer, but depending on the rest of your chart, there may be strong concentrations of other signs and

elements. For example, if you find that a particular herb is listed as associated with both Cancer and Taurus, it is because it contains both natures in abundance. In the cases of strong multiple correlations, it is important to summon or tune in to the one you need.

Times

You always have access to your power as a Cancer witch, but there are times when the flow is stronger, readily available, or more easily summoned. There are sophisticated astrological methods to select dates and times that are specific to your birth chart. Unless you want to learn quite a bit more astrology or hire someone to determine these for you, you can do quite well with simpler methods. Let's look at the cycles of the solar year, the lunar month, and the hours of day-night rotation. When the Sun is in Cancer, or the Moon is in Cancer, or at midday every day, you are in the sweet spot for tuning in to the core of your power.

Cancer season is roughly June 21–July 22, but check your astrological calendar or ephemeris to determine when it is for a specific year in your time zone. The amount of energy is highest when the Sun is at the same degree of Cancer as it is in your birth chart. This peak will not always be on your birth date, but very close to it. Take advantage of Cancer season for working magick and for recharging and storing up energy for the whole year.

The Moon moves through the twelve signs every lunar cycle and spends around two and a half days in each sign. When the Moon is in Cancer, you have access to more lunar power because the Moon in the heavens has a resonant link to the Sun in your birth chart. At some point during its time in Cancer, the Moon will be at the same degree as your Sun. For you, that will be the peak of the energy during the Moon's passage through Cancer that month. While the Moon is in Cancer, your psychism is stronger, as is your ability to manifest things. When the Moon is almost full, in any sign, you can draw upon its power more readily because it is resonant to your sign.

The Sun's entry into Cancer marks the summer solstice in the northern hemisphere. It is the longest day, the peak of the light, and is like the full of the Sun. Cancer is the fourth sign of the zodiac, and the zodiac is like a clock. For the purpose of spells and rituals, we'll follow the natural order of the signs in the year and correlate that to the cycle of day and night. Midday corresponds to the watery power of Cancer. If you are detail focused, you might be wondering when that is. This varies with the time of year and with your location, but if you must have a time, think of it as 12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m. Or you can use your intuition and feel your way to when midday is on any given day. The powers that flow during this time are rich, creative, and filled with possibilities for you to experience. Plan on using the Cancer energy of the midday to fuel and feed spells for learning, divination, creativity, and new growth.

The effect of these special times can be joined in any combination. For example, you can choose to do work at midday when the Moon is in Cancer, or the Sun is in Cancer at midday, or the Moon is in Cancer during Cancer season. You can combine all three as well. Each of these time groupings will have a distinctive feeling. Experiment and use your instincts to discover how to use these in your work.

Places

There are activities, professions, phenomena, and behaviors that have an affinity, a resonant connection, to Cancer and its ruling planet, the Moon. These activities occur in the locations that suit or facilitate their expressions. There is magick to be claimed from those places that is earmarked for Cancer or your ruling planet of the Moon. Just like your birth chart, the world around you contains the influences of all the planets and signs, but in different proportions and arrangements. You can always draw upon Cancer or the Moon energy, though there are times when it is more abundant depending on astrological considerations. Places and spaces have energies that accumulate and can be tapped as well. Places contain the physical, emotional, and spiritual environments that are created by the actions of the material objects, plants, animals, and people occupying those

spaces. Some of the interactions between these things can generate or concentrate the energies and patterns that can be used by Cancer witches.

If you look at traditional astrology books, you'll find listings of places assigned to Cancer and the Moon that include locations such as these:

Places near the ocean, lakes, or streams

Home and all dwelling places

Places for care, such as hospitals and childcare centers

Places for food processing or storage

Places that hold memories, such as museums, historic sites, libraries, and cemeteries

These are very clearly linked to the themes associated with Cancer and the Moon. With a bit of brainstorming and free-associating, you'll find many other less obvious locations and situations where you can draw upon this power. For example, being on board a ship or at a family cookout can produce a current you can plug into. Any activity involving nurturing, tending to your home, participating in a beloved seasonal tradition, or similar activities can become a source of power for a Cancer witch. All implements or actions related to offering affection, tending to young ones, preserving the past, and many more situations also could be a source for energy.

While you can certainly go to places that are identified as locations where Cancer and/or Moon energy is plentiful to do workings, you can find those energies in many other circumstances. Don't be limited by the idea that the places must be the ones that have a formalized link to Cancer. Be on the lookout for Cancer or Moon themes and activities wherever you may be. Remember that people thinking, feeling, or participating in activities connected to your sign and its ruling planet are raising power. If you can identify with it as resonating with Cancer, then you can call the power and put it to use. You complete the circuit to engage the flow with your visualization, intentions, and actions.

Plants

Cancer is watery, emotional, and careful in motion, and its colors are white and violet—though many pastels work. The Moon overlaps with these but also adds a focus on imagination, magick, situations that impact many people, and altered consciousness. Herbs, resins, oils, fruits, vegetables, woods, and flowers that strongly exhibit one or more of these qualities can be called upon to support your magic. Here are a few examples:

Aloe because it is watery, soothing, and healing.

Mugwort because it soothes the digestion and opens psychism.

Willow for cooling fever, easing pain, and loving water.

Moonwort (Lunaria) for protection from unwholesome spirits and lies.

White poppy (white-seeded) for dreamwork and Moon magick.

Once you understand the rationale for making these assignments, the lists of correspondences will make more sense. Another thing to consider is that each part of a plant may resonate more strongly with a different element, planet, and sign. Mugwort shows its connection with Cancer and the Moon through its use in lucid dreaming and soothing qualities. However, Mugwort is also Saturnian because it can be used to suppress and bind powers. Which energy steps forward depends on your call and invitation. "Like calls to like" is a truism in witchcraft. When you use your Cancer nature to make a call, you are answered by the Cancer part of the plant.

Plant materials can take the form of incense, anointing oils, altar pieces, potions, washes, magickal implements, foods, flower arrangements, and so on. The mere presence of plant material linked to Cancer or the Moon will be helpful to you. However, to gain the most benefit from plant energy, you need to actively engage with it. Push some of your energy into the plants and then pull on it to start the flow. Although much of the plant material you work with will be dried or preserved, it retains a connection to living members of its species. You may also want to reach out and try to commune with the spirit, the group soul, of the plants to request their assistance or guidance. This will awaken the power slumbering in the dried or preserved plant material. Spending time with living plants, whether they be houseplants, in your yard, or in a public garden will strengthen your conversation with the green beings under Cancer's eye.

Crystals and Stones

Before digging into this topic, let's clear up some of the confusion around the birthstones for the signs of the zodiac. There are many varying lists for birthstones. Also be aware that some are related to the calendar month

rather than the zodiacal signs. There are traditional lists, but the most commonly available lists for birthstones were created by jewelers to sell more jewelry. Also be cautious of the word traditional as some jewelers refer to the older lists compiled by jewelers as “traditional.” The traditional lists created by magickal practitioners also diverge from each other because of cultural differences and the availability of different stones in the times and places the lists were created. If you have already formed a strong connection to a birthstone that you discover is not really connected to the energy of your sign, keep using it. Your connection is proof of its value to you in moving, holding, and shifting energy, whether or not it is specifically attuned to Cancer.

These are my preferred assignments of birthstones for the signs of the zodiac:

Aries	Bloodstone, Carnelian, Diamond
Taurus	Rose Quartz, Amber, Sapphire
Gemini	Agate, Tiger’s Eyes, Citrine
Cancer	Moonstone, Pearl, Emerald
Leo	Heliodor, Peridot, Black Onyx

Virgo	Green Aventurine, Moss Agate, Zircon
Libra	Jade, Lapis Lazuli, Labradorite
Scorpio	Obsidian, Pale Beryl, Nuummite
Sagittarius	Turquoise, Blue Topaz, Iolite
Capricorn	Black Tourmaline, Howlite, Ruby
Aquarius	Amethyst, Sugalite, Garnet
Pisces	Ametrine, Smoky Quartz, Aquamarine

There are many other possibilities that work just as well, and I suggest you find what responds best for you as an individual. I've included all twelve signs in case you'd like to use the stones for your Moon sign or rising sign. Hands-on experimentation is the best approach, so I suggest visiting crystal or metaphysical shops and rock and mineral shows when possible. Here's some information on the three that I prefer for Cancer:

Moonstone

Moonstones come in many colors, so your first question will be which one. The answer is the one you need, so follow your instinct. Moonstones promote better control of your psychic abilities. They also help steady the rhythms and cycles of your body's physical and spiritual energies. You can use these stones to settle strong emotions and make sense of what you feel. Moonstones can connect you to the power of the Moon in ritual and protect you from having nightmares and from unfriendly spirits that roam the night. For a Cancer, its most valuable gift is the clarity it gives when examining the narrative of your life.

Pearl

Pearls bring enlightenment about the true state of your emotions. It is easy for a Cancer to have so many feelings that they can't describe them or sort through them. Pearls slow down the flow so you can distinguish the flows of each emotion. Pearl also encourages serenity as you examine your feelings. They keep you honest by reflecting back what is in you rather than what you wish to see. Pearls can also help dissolve negative attachments and repel psychic attacks. They also help stimulate feelings of connection between people and make it easier to feel loved. If a pearl makes you sad when you touch it, heed the message and find what needs healing.

Emerald

This stone does not correspond to the Moon or Cancer, but it does offer a useful counterbalance for those patterns. Emerald is life-affirming and encourages openness to experiencing the beauty of the world in its fullest. It helps release worries and fears. It helps heal a broken heart so it can be open again. This stone sorts out the truth when you are having psychic impressions or communication with spirits. It helps keep your mind sharp and clear as you do spiritual work. You can amplify shields and wards with an emerald, and this should please almost any Cancer.

Intuition and spiritual guidance play a part in the making of correlations, and, in the case of traditional lore, the collective experience of many generations of practitioners. However, there is also reasoning behind how these assignments are made, and understanding the process will help you choose well.

The majority of crystals assigned to Cancer are light colors or have a shimmer of light because they recall Cancer and the Moon in their fluid appearance. Spectrolite and larvikite are good examples.

The metal assigned to Cancer is silver because it shines like the full Moon but darkens over time with tarnish, reminiscent of the Moon's phases. It is an antiseptic metal that protects against physical and spiritual harm.

Crystals that have significant amounts of silver or water, such as opal, acanthite, and enhydro quartz, also work well.

Crystals whose lore and uses are related to Cancer or Moon actions or topics, such as protection, emotional work, and transformation, are

recommended as crystals for Cancers: morganite, amazonite, and shungite, for example.

You'll also find that some of the crystals suggested for Cancer hold energies that are the opposite of the themes associated with Cancer. In those cases, the logic used is about providing a counterbalance or smoothing out an excessive manifestation of Cancer or Moon traits. For example, sapphire is useful for Cancer for its sharpening and organizing of the mind.

The crystals suggested for Capricorn, your opposite sign, are also useful to maintain your balance.

Working with Ritual Objects

A substantial number of traditions or schools of witchcraft use magickal tools that are consecrated to represent and hold the power of the elements. Oftentimes in these systems there is one primary tool for each of the elements. The vast majority use a chalice as the tool to anchor the power of water. Magickal tools and ritual objects are typically cleansed, consecrated, and charged to prepare them for use. In addition to following whatever procedure you may have for preparing your tools, add in a step to incorporate your energy and identity as a Cancer witch. This is especially productive for magickal tools and ritual objects that are connected to water or are used for healing or psychic work. By adding Cancer energy and patterning into the preparation of your tools, you will find it easier to raise, move, and shape energy with them in your workings.

There are many magickal tools and ritual objects that need not be element specific. These tools in particular benefit from being filled with Cancer energy to make them more responsive to your intentions.

A Charging Practice

When you consciously use your Cancer witch energy to send power into tools, it tunes them more closely to your aura. Here's a quick method for imbuing any tool with your Cancer energy.

Place the tool in front of you on a table or altar.

Take a breath in, imagining that you are breathing in silver energy, and then say "Cancer" as you exhale. Repeat this three times.

Cross your arms in front of you with hands cupping your elbows. Give yourself a gentle hug. You've just formed the glyph for Cancer.

Using a finger, trace the glyph of Cancer over or on the tool you are charging. Repeat this several times and imagine the glyph being absorbed by the tool.

Pick up the tool, take in a breath while imagining silver energy, then blow that charged breath over the tool.

Say "Blessed be!" and proceed with using the tool or putting it away.

Hopefully this charging practice will inspire you and encourage you to experiment. Develop the habit of using the name Cancer as a word of power, the glyph for Cancer for summoning power, and the shimmering colors of Cancer to visualize its flow. Feel free to use these spontaneously. Whether it be a pendulum, a wand, a crystal, a chalice, a ritual robe, or anything else that catches your imagination, these simple methods can have a large impact. The Cancer energy you imprint into them will be quick to rise and answer your call.

Herbs

Chickweed	for bringing rest and poppet stuffing
Kava Kava	to settle intense emotions
Passion Flower	to attract friends

Flowers

Moonflower Vine	for prophecy and inviting Moon deities
Orris (Iris)	for releasing what is hidden
White Rose	for seeing a better future

Incense and Fragrances

Sandarac Resin	to call the Moon's light
Clary Sage	for a heart that sees true
Elemi Resin	to learn occult teachings

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Cleansing and Shielding

Madame Pamita

Cleansing and shielding are two aspects of spellcraft that every Cancer witch needs in their bag of tricks. Moonchild, you were born for this. We're water signs, and so cleansing is natural to us, and as crabs, we have access to a tough shell that can protect us. Easy peasy, right? Well, even if we have a natural affinity for this kind of work, we can still perfect our skills and try new ways to get our spiritual selves squeaky clean.

Cleansing for Crabs

As water babies, we will have an affinity for any magic that is aqua adjacent. This is a great trait to have for cleansing magic because water is the ultimate purifying element. Yes, you can cleanse with earth, air, or fire too, but water is our special astrological habitat and has the special quality of healing and replenishing as it spiritually cleanses.

Making a Cleansing Bath

Taking a cleansing bath is one of the best ways for a Cancer witch to get rid of malefic magic, bad moods, or just stray negativity that they pick up. Negativity is bound to show up in our lives at some point. Sometimes it can be as simple as a news story that sends us into a spiral of hopelessness or a snarky remark some stranger makes on our social media feed. Other times it can be as serious as living or working in a really challenging environment

or having someone actively throwing some nasty spells our way. Whatever the yuck, a bath can clean it up quickly and easily.

A bath can be as simple as soaking in a tub of warm water and imagining it dissolving all the negativity, then watching it go down the drain and out of your life. However, you can bring in even more spiritual support by adding these ingredients to make your bath even more focused and powerful. If you have a shower but no bath, you can create a bath by blending these ingredients in a bucket, an unbreakable basin, or a large bowl and pouring them over your body as you shower.

Salt—Salt is protective and purifying. In many folk magic traditions, salt is seen as a tool to drive out malefic magic, so by adding a handful of salt to your bathwater, you can amplify the energetic cleansing of the bath. Add sea salt if you'd like to bring in some extra Cancerian power.

Epsom Salt—Epsom salt has healing qualities, so adding it to your bath can soothe the raw feelings you might be experiencing. It is also said to be an excellent tool for breaking spells, hexes, and jinxes, so if you think you have been crossed up, Epsom salts are a must.

Herbs and Flowers—Dried or fresh herbs and flowers can also be a great addition to a cleansing bath. You can add loose herbs, leaves, or petals, but you will have to clean them out of the bath once your water has gone down the drain. An easier way to work with them in your bath is to tie them in a piece of cheesecloth or put them in a reusable muslin bag. Choose herbs that align with your intention of energetic purification, such as angelica, hyssop, patchouli, or verbena. Let the bag soak in the hot water and enjoy the healing scent and magical power.

For a really busy Cancer witch, the easiest way of all to add herbs to your bath is to simply find an herbal tea that contains cleansing herbs such as lemongrass, mint, or nettle. Simply drop a bag or two into your bath and remove them before you let the water go down the drain.

Essential Oils—Essential oils are the concentrated fragrant oils produced from plants. Essential oils are generally too strong in their pure form to be applied directly on the skin, but most are perfectly safe when diluted in bathwater. Always do your research to see if a particular essential oil, herb, or flower is safe for you to use. Squeeze just a few drops of your favorite oil or oil blend to add the magic support of the plant to your cleansing bath. Anise, camphor, lemon balm, lemon verbena, pine, rosemary, or any of the herbs mentioned earlier can be used to make a powerful cleansing bath.

Besides making your own bath with the ingredients mentioned, you can also purchase magically manufactured bath crystals or bath salts, bath bombs, shower steamers, bubble bath, soaks, and soaps to support your cleansing intention. If you find ones that use real essential oils and herbs in addition to any fragrance, you will have an easy, luxurious, and perhaps even fun way of getting rid of spiritual gunk.

Ritual Bath

I like to approach cleansing baths as spiritual "me time." You shouldn't go into the bath without the consciousness of doing a sacred ceremony. The following is my favorite ritual for cleansing.

You will need:

Any of the ingredients listed previously (salts, herbs, flowers, oils) that you feel called to

Candles, incense, and music to set the mood (optional)

A clean towel and freshly washed clothes or pajamas to change into afterward

First, prepare the bathroom. You can light incense, burn candles, put on some healing meditation music, dim the lights—whatever sets a sacred mood for you. Don't bring your phone, a magazine, your rubber duck, or any of the usual things you bring to your standard bath. Make this event special and distinct from mundane washing up.

Draw your bath and add your ingredients, speaking an intention as you add them to the water. I like to envision my bath as a giant cauldron into which I am stirring a potion. If you'd like to add some extra cleansing power, thank the spirit of the water and the herbs and stir your brew with your hand in a counterclockwise direction as you chant an incantation such as, "May this water remove all negativity from me."

Get into your bath and allow the steam and the scent to envelop you. Close your eyes and get into a focused meditative state. See, hear, or sense that all negativity is being dissolved off you, and your body and aura are shining brightly. If you feel inclined, you can chant your incantation, sing a healing song, or simply focus on your meditation.

When you feel fully cleansed or the water gets cold, step out of the bath and dry yourself off with the clean towel and then put on your clean clothing or nightwear. Drain the water out of the bath and imagine all that negativity going down the drain. Thank the spirits, snuff your candle or incense, if needed, and tidy up the bathroom. Your spell is complete.

Multiple Baths for Heavy Cleansing

Most people just need a single cleansing bath to remove the general negativity we pick up day to day. For most cases, doing this bath once a month should be sufficient, and you can time it with the full Moon to bring some extra healing and cleansing power.

However, if you have some long-standing negativity, have been cursed or crossed by someone, or just need a spiritual deep clean, then you may want to do a series of baths. Do one bath each day for a certain number of consecutive days. Three-, seven-, eleven-, and even thirteen-day bath cycles are often prescribed by spiritual healers for particularly tough situations.

Alternative Baths

There are some other alternatives to the cleansing bath ritual mentioned above. Pouring prepared water over yourself in the shower can be a great way to get all the benefits of the bath when you don't have access to a tub.

If you need a bath on the go, whip up a small batch of a healing bathwater and add it to a spray bottle or atomizer. Any time you feel some funky energy around you, you can give yourself a quick spritz. This is also a great tool for giving a "cleansing bath" to a space and is a healthful alternative to incense for those who can't tolerate smoke.

Swimming in natural rivers, lakes, oceans, and springs can be a powerful way to get the healing power of water right from the source with the healing essences of nature around you. If you are going to bathe in these natural places, be safe and do your cleansing ritual with others nearby.

Shielding for Cancer Witches

After you've done your cleansing, you're sparkly and shiny and ready to face the world. Wait, not so fast, Moonchild! It's rough out there, and you want to avoid psychic attacks, jinxes, hexes, the evil eye, or simply picking up any stray negative energy. That's where shielding comes in. Once you've done your cleanse, you can follow it up with some shielding to keep away the mischief-makers.

Raise Your Shields, Crabs!

The best thing about being a Cancer witch is that we have a built-in shielding—our virtual shells! Have you ever looked closely at a crustacean's shell? It locks together with intricate elegance, holds all the squishy stuff inside, and keeps the predators at bay. Like our symbolic animal, the crab, we have access to a tough suit of spiritual armor, called an aura, that we can turn on like Captain Kirk telling the crew, "Shields and deflectors up!"

Your aura is an energy field that extends out beyond your physical body. When we are feeling safe, content, and joyful, our aura naturally opens up and spreads out like a flower blossoming. This openness, however, can make us more susceptible to psychic attacks. Whenever you sense that you're in a tricky spot where you might need that crab shell, take a deep breath, close your eyes, cross your arms over your chest, and visualize or sense yourself pulling your aura close and tight around your skin and having it lock in place like the pieces of a suit of armor. If you're in a really sketchy situation, you can even add a few snappy crab claws to your getup to scare off the evildoers.

If you're a visual person, you can design this armor in your mind's eye to look fabulous as well as be protective. Is it shiny and sparkly? Does it light up? Is it colorful or camouflaged? And how sharp do you want those claws? Decorative or deadly? Design your imaginary armor to be a fashion statement as well as a powerful spiritual tool and practice putting it on often, then whenever you need an extra dose of shielding, you can immediately call your energy back and deploy your spiritual force field.

Shielding with Spiritual Oils

If visualizing your crabby armor is a challenge, or you simply want an extra layer of shielding, call on your allies in the plant kingdom. Spiritual oils are blends of essential oils formulated for specific magical purposes, and their liquid consistency is especially effective for watery crabs.

Spiritual oils range in price and quality. The least expensive ones are made with cheap artificial fragrances and don't have the power of herbs. A better choice is the ones that contain real essential oils, herbs, and even crystals as part of the blend. You may pay more for these, but your spell will bring the energy of the plants and gems to help support your intentions. You can also formulate your own blend by mixing essential oils and herbs with a carrier oil, such as sweet almond oil, jojoba oil, apricot kernel oil, or fractionated coconut oil in a ratio of one part essential oil to nine parts carrier oil. Just make sure you use essential oils that don't cause skin irritation. (Citrus and cinnamon essential oils, I'm looking at you!)

So, what do you do with these magical concoctions? If you know you're going to be entering a place or situation where some negativity may come your way, plan ahead and put a few drops of an oil with protective or strengthening herbs into the palms of your hands, then apply it to your skin as you speak your intention and visualize your safety. I like to apply an oil in an upward direction on my body, from feet toward head, when I am drawing something like protection and shielding in, but you can also try applying oils to power points or extra vulnerable spots on your body, such as on your chest, over your heart. It's good witchy manners to ask the spirit of the plant to deflect all negative energies and strengthen your spiritual shield and thank them for their assistance.

Start Your Shielding from the

Outside In with Magic Potions

Drinking a magic potion can also be an excellent way to bring protection not just on your body but in your body. The primary magic potion is just plain pure water. Water that has been charged with the energy of sunlight or moonlight can turn into holy water. Simply place a clear bottle of water out under the light of the Sun or Moon for a few hours or all day or night and visualize it absorbing that protective energy. Once that's done, you can drink the water and take that powerful energy into your body. Visualize drinking liquid sunshine or sparkling moonlight.

Another favorite trick of mine for turning water into a magic potion is to get a clear drinking glass or bottle and a permanent marker such as a Sharpie or a special marker for writing on drinking glasses. Write the words of your shielding spell, a sigil, or a symbol on the outside of the glass and pour room temperature water into the glass. Envision the water being programmed with the intention of your spell and then drink in that intention. When you're done, you can simply wash the words off the glass and put it back into use as a regular drinking glass.

If you want to add some extra herbal energy to your water, you can make a true magical potion. The basic potion is simply edible herbs brewed in water—in other words, tea! Yes, the herbs we use in teas and herbal teas or tisanes can be used for spells. Sneaky, huh? You can use dried edible herbs and create a brew or, if you want to make it really doable, purchase herbal tea blends that contain protective herbs at your local health food store or supermarket.

Many tea blends contain herbs with magical protective qualities and are generally safe to drink. Look for protective ingredients such as angelica root, holy basil or tulsi, bay leaf, black pepper, blessed thistle, coriander, elderflower, eucalyptus, fennel, ginger, lemon peel, lemongrass, or slippery elm. These herbs are all considered safe to drink but, as with all things you ingest, make sure the herbs are safe for you and your particular health situation.

Shiny, Sparkly, and Strong

As a Cancer witch who empathically absorbs everybody and everything's energy, cleansing and shielding can make a huge difference in your energy levels, how confidently you move through the world, and how effective your other magic can be. If you don't already have a practice of cleansing and shielding, try some of these techniques and see the difference they make in the quality of your magical life.

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What Sets a Cancer Off,

and How to Recover

Madame Pamita

As crabs, we may have a squishy interior, but we've got a tough shell to protect our tender emotions. We're givers, we're lovers, but we're no pushovers. We are mostly polite but have no problem expressing our displeasure when something really rubs us the wrong way, even if we're able to forgive and forget in some cases. If anyone has ever called you "crabby," it's probably been because they broke one of these ten commandments of Cancer witches.

I. Thou Shalt Not Break Our Hearts

Love is everything to a Cancer. Romantic love, family love, friendships, love of humanity. We love big and we love deeply, so we can't understand it when the ones we love don't love us in return. Can we all agree that unrequited love is just the worst for a Cancer witch? Part of our work is realizing that maybe not everyone is deserving of all that luscious, yummy love we've got to give.

If we cannot freak out every time we are single, we might be able to lay off the twin-flame-soul-mate-binding-throughout-all-eternity love spells for every crush-of-the-week we have. The emotional heavy lifting of being a Cancer witch is learning to love ourselves as much as we love everyone else. If we start a love affair with ourselves first, we may just be a little bit

pickier about whom we set ourselves up with (and not set ourselves up for a heartbreak quite so often).

II. Thou Shalt Not Attack Our Loved Ones

If you break our hearts, we get out the Kleenex, but if you hurt someone we love, we sharpen up our crab claws. If there is one thing that will set off a Cancer witch, it's a person who goes after our loved ones. If we find out who the malicious one is, our first instinct is to hunt them down with a hex so righteously malignant that it would make Machiavelli turn pale.

What we don't necessarily realize is that a lot of the energy we are putting into that curse could be better spent making sure our loved one is cared for, healed, and feels protected. Not every silly insult flung at our friends, lovers, or family deserves a Death unto My Enemies spell. Save the witch war for the select few who truly deserve it.

III. Thou Shalt Not Doubt Our Psychic Ability

In Greek mythology, the priestess Cassandra was given the gift of prophecy by Apollo, but when she backed out on getting down with him, he cursed her so that no one would believe her accurate predictions. I don't have her astrological chart, but there's a good chance Cassandra was a Cancer. We have a great knack for foretelling the future, but do people listen? No! And that drives us crazy, just like it did Cassandra.

There are two lessons in this for us. First, you can't tell the truth to people who want to live in a fantasy. If your best friend wants to believe that his lover who left him five years ago, hasn't spoken to him, blocked his phone number and his socials, and got married to someone else is coming back, you aren't going to convince him otherwise (and really, it doesn't take a lot of prophetic gifts to see that). Second, be choosier about whom you reveal

your gifts to. You don't need a bunch of yes-men agreeing with everything you say, but share your visions of the future with people who are open to really hearing the truth, even if it's not what they necessarily want to hear.

IV. Thou Shalt Not Speak Ill of Us Behind Our Backs, for We Shall Know It and Will Cut a Bitch

We're psychic as hell and so we know when you're trash-talking.

We don't like fake friends and we don't do frenemies.

V. Thou Shalt Not Force Us to Follow Through on Projects We Start

Cancers are one of the four cardinal signs; that means we love to start projects, we come up with amazing ideas, and we make shit happen! We are driven, we're hustlers, we're creative as hell! Whooo! We're the best! Unless it comes to the boring part: follow-through. Ugh! We're the worst! I always said that my dream job was coming up with ideas and having other people actually make them happen. Classic Cancer.

If you're living your best Cancer life and have a bunch of half-finished amazing magical projects sitting around, you need to learn the value of the coven. In a really functional coven, you have a variety of people who like taking on different roles: from the High Priest or Priestess who feels comfortable in front of a crowd, to the witch organizing the post-ritual snacks. Surround yourself with some fixed sign BFFs (Taurus, Scorpio, Leo, and Aquarian witches) who will gladly take on the tasks and see them through. Then celebrate all you have accomplished together when you reach the finish line!

VI. Thou Shalt Not Make Us

Stick to One Magical System

Magic comes in a rainbow of variations. There are an infinite number of spiritual paths and, as Cancers, we might want to explore more than one way of doing things. We are water signs, and so we are flow-ers. Just like a river that meanders, our spiritual path might take some twists and turns throughout our life. This month we might be all about calling in the Fae folk, and next month we might be more interested in incantations, and there is nothing wrong with that. If a person adopts a spiritual dogma early on and sticks to it their whole life, that's fine, but it will drive us around the bend if they then turn around and tell us we're flaky because we are constantly evolving. The only thing worse is when we start to believe that we're inconsistent dabblers who are not serious about our craft.

You are a Cancer witch, and that means flowing is your nature. Acknowledge the beauty of the gorgeous, messy variety inherent in your unique spiritual recipe. No one has ever evolved quite the way you have, and no one will ever duplicate your spiritual journey. Which leads us to …

VII. Thou Shalt Not Say That There Is Only One Right Way to Do Magic

There is almost nothing that will make a Cancer witch lose their cool faster than another witch who tells them they're doing their magic wrong. Um … excuse me. Who made them the pope of witchcraft? Wait! There's no way they can be the pope of witchcraft because witchcraft isn't a religion and it for sure doesn't have a pope!

Yes, there are generally accepted principals of magic that most people agree on—roses are good for love spells, for example—but most magical practices have lots of variation. I encourage new-to-the-craft Cancer witches (or even non-Cancer witches) to try different methods and modalities and see what works for them. Dress a candle with oil from bottom to top or from the middle outward or round and round in a spiral. Nothing is written in stone, so if you are dying to use roses for a money spell, have at it! See what happens. If it works, keep it; if it doesn't, try something else.

VIII. Thou Shalt Honor Our Moonlike Moods

Don't call a Cancer witch moody. We are moody, but don't call us that. We can't help ourselves. Cancer is ruled by the Moon, and just as the Moon waxes and wanes, our moods ebb and flow. One day we might be ready to party with our witches, a week later all we want to do is curl up with a spell book and read all day.

It's helpful for Cancer witches to pay attention to these cycles and see if they correspond to what's happening with the Moon. Getting a Moon diary (Llewellyn's Moon Sign Datebook is a great one!) that helps you track the cycles and signs of the Moon can help you see how your own cycles flow. Just jot down some notes on how you're feeling and what you're up to each day, and you may start to see some patterns that help you communicate to others how they can best connect to you as you move through the month.

IX. Thou Shalt Not Dump Thy Problems on Us

Just because we're compassionate and empathetic friends, that doesn't mean we're an emotional dumping ground. We're happy to listen to you bitch about your boss, complain about your companions, or fret about your

family. One time. After that, we need to see you do something about the situation.

Cancer witches would do well to have some tools in their emotional witch kit for creating healthy boundaries with others. When your friend approaches you to tell you the same sob story for the fifteenth time, you can lead the conversation in a new direction with questions like, "What is your plan for changing the situation?" When it comes to some of the fixed signs in particular, it can be hard for us to see the changes they're making happen so slooooooowly. Be patient with them and honor the baby steps they are taking to make their circumstances better.

X. Thou Shalt Not Make Us Let Go

Before We Are Ready

We're great at getting things going, but we're not so great at letting things go. Whether it's that old tarot deck that's missing a few cards, stub ends of spell candles, or our ex from seven years ago, sometimes it takes us a minute to toss the things that need to go. Give us a little time to process the goodbyes and move on.

It's helpful for Cancer witches to think of the idea of letting things go as making space for new and exciting things to come in. "If I donate these old books I've already read, I can make space on my bookshelf for new books I want to read." Keep thinking of all the fun you'll have filling in the space with fresh new ideas, brand-new relationships, and cool new toys. Create a small ritual to say goodbye, tell the items (or in your mind's eye, tell the person), "Thank you for all the experiences we had together." Take a photo of the item or keep a few photos of the person so you can look back at them if you ever get the urge. Then send them on their way to their new life in the way that seems most appropriate.

You will need:

All four Aces from a Rider-Waite-Smith tarot deck to represent the four elements of magick

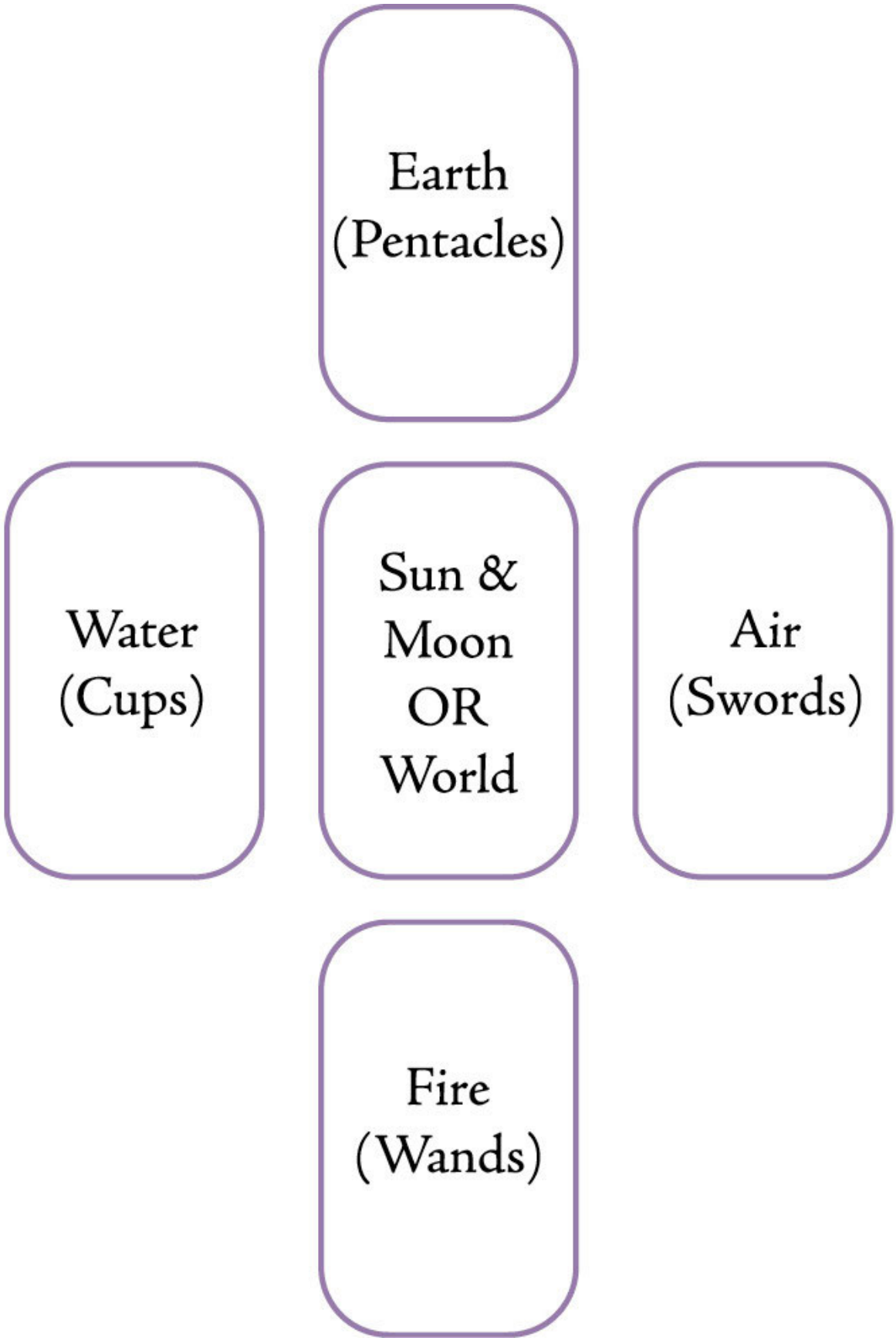
The Sun and The Moon or The World to represent the divine

The Chariot as your point of focus to represent yourself

An altar table

Set up a sacred space according to your tradition and belief system. On the altar, set the four aces at the four cardinal points coinciding with the element you call on that point. For example, air at the east (Swords), fire at the south (Wands), water at the west (Cups), and earth at the north (Pentacles). At the center of the altar, set The Sun and Moon cards (or The World) to evoke the presence of the divine source.

Sit comfortably before your altar and hold The Chariot card. Take some deep breaths and observe for a few minutes every detail on the card.


Earth
(Pentacles)
Water
(Cups)
Sun &
Moon
OR
World
Air
(Swords)
Fire
(Wands)

Touching the card to your heart, read the following words aloud, pausing after each sentence to look at the card while taking deep breaths:

My intuition is divine, and I feel like the Moons on my armor's shoulders in all their glory, waxing and full, waning and new. I can feel what is real, what is there, and what's intended.

My instinct is sharp and I see, I recognize truth, like the beasts that pull The Chariot, two sides of a coin, two polarities as a whole. I ebb and flow, like the pulsations of the universe, intense and subtle, tangible and ethereal. No one is dominant, for I hold the reins of this journey.

Celestial bodies protect my crown, like the many faces of the Feminine Divine. She is with me, and I am with Her; that protection lets me be and create.

My armor is protection for the vessel of the alchemist;

I am healer, I am magic. I perceive and don't absorb, I observe and don't receive. I transform accordingly to what I allow near me.

I'm protected and divine, I am sensitive. Divinely empathetic.

I'm protected and divine, I am aware. Divinely psychic.

I'm protected and divine, I am emotional. Divinely loving.

I'm protected and divine, I am compassionate. Divinely just.

I'm protected and divine, I am thriving. Divinely resilient.

I'm protected and divine, I am direct. Divinely pragmatic.

I ride on my chariot over the ways of the world; I reconcile my empathy, my instinct, and my love with my assertiveness and security.

I feel and discern; I know reality from fantasy.

Observe and don't receive. Perceive, and don't absorb.

Observe and don't receive. Perceive, and don't absorb.

Observe and don't receive. Perceive, and don't absorb.

Sit in contemplation for a few minutes. After you feel the energies of balance and security permeating all your being, proceed to give thanks and open your sacred space. The work is finished.

Note: Please feel free to adjust any part of this spell. You can utilize the six "I am protected and divine" sentences as daily affirmations or as a nightly meditation.

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The Great Heart of Scott Cunningham

Jenya T. Beachy

The Moon calls to her own. From her inky black track in the sky, her bright face looks down with a serene gaze. Moonchildren, they are sometimes called—those born between midsummer and the first harvest. With the Moon as their ruling planet, they are changeable, secretive, and deeply caring. Reflective and private, and yet loving sometimes to a fault. Scott Cunningham was one such as this.

He came to the Craft as a young man, after a childhood spent in deep connection with nature. It's said that as a youth, he had such a way with the elements that he could call birds to him, raise the wind, and bring the rain to the mountains. As he grew in knowledge and power, he shared freely with students and covenmates, and then the whole wide world with the publishing of his many books. And all throughout, the Moon shone in him.

He was changeable. He began as a solitary student of magick, taking long walks in the woods, exploring the ways of nature. Later he turned to research and study to increase his understanding. He taught the philosophy and practice of Wicca and made public appearances on radio and TV. Then he turned from teaching to writing and back to his solitary ways. He moved from within to without and back again over and over.

He was secretive, a very private person. Having gained an encyclopedic knowledge of herbs, oils, stones, and other components of magickal practice, he was always willing to share his wisdom. At the same time, he had an aversion to public ritual and would not participate, though he received many invitations. He also kept his personal life away from prying

eyes, sharing little of his thoughts and experiences, except as they provided a framework for his Wicca.

But the most important way the Cancerian nature showed up in Scott Cunningham was in his deep caring, his great heart. His works and workings are full of love: love for the gods, love for nature, and love for Wicca. In his Book of Shadows (published posthumously), he says, “May we have within our hearts a love for all within nature; thus is the Ancient Way of the Wicca, to love nature and all her creations.”[2]

His embodied life was short; he was only thirty-six years old when he passed from this world. One can only wonder what other gifts of beauty and power might have come from the great heart of Scott Cunningham if he had had more time.

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2. Scott Cunningham, Cunningham's Book of Shadows: The Path of an American Traditionalist (Woodbury, MN: Llewellyn Publications, 2011), 45.

The Sway of Your Moon Sign

Ivo Dominguez, Jr.

The Moon is the reservoir of your emotions, thoughts, and all your experiences. The Moon is your subconscious, your unconscious, and your instinctive response in the moment. The Moon is also the author, narrator, and the musical score in the ongoing movie in your mind that summarizes and mythologizes your story. The Moon is like a scrying mirror, a sacred well, that gives answers to the question of the meaning of your life. The style and the perspective of your Moon sign shapes your story, a story that starts as a reflection of your Sun sign's impetus. The remembrance of your life events is a condensed subjective story, and it is your Moon sign that summarizes and categorizes the data stream of your life.

In witchcraft, the Moon is our connection and guide to the physical and energetic tides in nature, the astral plane, and other realities. The Moon in the heavens as it moves through signs and phases also pulls and pushes on your aura. The Moon in your birth chart reveals the intrinsic qualities and patterns in your aura, which affects the form your magick takes. Your Sun sign may be the source of your essence and power, but your Moon sign shows how you use that power in your magick. As a Cancer witch, this is doubly true as the Moon is your ruling planet. This chapter describes the twelve possible arrangements of Moon signs with a Cancer Sun and what each combination yields.

Moon in Aries

This combination makes you more outgoing and direct than many Cancers. An Aries Moon urges you to be more decisive and more self-confident. Your Sun and Moon are both in the cardinal modality, which gives you more drive and determination. You learn your self-worth sooner in life than most Cancers. Turning up your power also means that you need to be more self-aware of the consequences of your actions and reactions because they return to you more swiftly. Many with this combination are drawn to leadership roles, and if they are not officially in a leadership role, they still manage to take charge of things. One of the ways that your Cancerian wish to care for other people manifests is to become the organizer and ordering principle to assure things go well. Be careful that you do not become overbearing, and if your plans go astray, do not be so hard on yourself.

You have a gift for mentoring others and helping them develop their potential to the fullest. You prefer to act out of thoughtfulness and compassion, which includes being strict when it is needed. You are no pushover and people soon discover that they should not trifle with you. An Aries Moon also has a tendency to push you to do work that affects many people in your community. Cancers generally love home and hearth, but an Aries Moon expands your sense of what that means to include much more as worthy of your love and care. For some, the whole world becomes the home they wish to nurture and support. All that cardinal energy and a fire Moon can lead to the explosive release of emotions when you've been blocked for too long. Your Cancer Sun can make you reserved about speaking directly, which is exactly what your Aries Moon wants to do. Make it a practice to let off steam slowly and steadily, or you will be scalded by your own outbursts.

An Aries Moon, like all the fire element Moons, easily stretches forth to connect with the energy of other beings. The fiery qualities cleanse and protect your aura, which gives you some protection from picking up too much from other people's auras. The element of fire will often be your best option for cleansing yourself. The Aries warrior energy from this Moon magnifies your capacity to act as a spiritual protector and cleanser.

Moon in Taurus

This fixed earth Moon reinforces that Cancer shell. You'll be good at hiding your feelings, which will make it easier for you to interact in social settings and be diplomatic as needed. You only really show your true self to the handful you invite into your home. This Moon will give you a structured and practical approach that serves you well in all your endeavors. The Taurean fortitude will let you get through almost any task. The downside is that it can become stubbornness, in particular when you are offered advice or guidance, even if it is good. You do have a good mind, a strong memory, and you are a keen observer, which means you are rarely fooled by people who are being foolish. You are also good at spotting opportunities to bring more abundance and comfort into your life.

That Taurus Moon's thoroughness and your Cancer Sun's need for certainty can lead to procrastination or delayed decision-making. Make deadlines for yourself and keep to them. The Moon is said to be exalted in Taurus, which gives it greater power and brings stronger intuition and a deep reserve of emotional strength. This gives you a certain sparkle, and people will notice and remember you even if you were quietly in the background. This combination of earth and water gives you a wealth of imagination and creativity. This is why you are so good at finding solutions and ways around

obstacles. This rich imagination can occasionally be a problem when you escape into your inner world and neglect your day-to-day life. To live your best life, you need to remain centered and grounded so you can be present in the here and now. This also allows you to hear feedback from others as communication rather than as an attack.

A Taurus Moon, like all the earth element Moons, generates an aura that is magnetic and pulls energy inward. This Moon also makes it easier to create strong shields and wards. The auras of people with a Taurus Moon are excellent at holding or restoring a pattern or acting as a container or vessel in a working. You can be a healer if you study different methods for physical, emotional, and spiritual healing. You can also help others open their psychic gifts. You also have a knack for working magick with animals and plants.

Moon in Gemini

This Moon's mental energy combined with your abundance of emotional energy makes you perceptive, helpful, fun to be with, and highly curious. The Gemini influence makes you more flexible and adaptable than most Cancers, which is helpful. However, this comes with the cost of seeing too many sides to every question and every option. You need time and space away from people to clear your head and make decisions.

With this combination, the appearance and the personality you present to the world change fast. It is hard for people to keep up, so give them some clues about which part of you is running the show. You can go from tender to aloof or sweet to salty in moments as you respond to what you hear and see. Your sharp intellect does have the power to see from various perspectives and reconsider situations. You do have the power to manage

who you become in response to the moment. Concentration, focus, and attention to the details do not come naturally, but you have what it takes to develop them. When you do, watch out world.

A Gemini Moon, like all the air Moons, makes it easier to engage in soul travel and psychism and gives the aura greater flexibility. When air aura reaches out and touches something, it can quickly read and copy the patterns it finds. A Gemini Moon gives the capacity to quickly adapt and respond to changing energy conditions in working magick or using the psychic senses. A wind can pick up and carry dust and debris, and the same is true for an aura. If you need to cleanse your energy, become as still as you can, and the debris will simply fall out of your aura. You are good at creating invocations, spells, and rituals.

Moon in Cancer

Your Moon is in the same sign as your Sun, and the Moon is the ruler of Cancer, so all the Cancerian influences are stronger. This can be wonderful and difficult in equal measures. Your head and heart are in consensus more often than not, and your thoughts and feelings are in full agreement. You are deeply spiritual and experience your inner and outer world with great depth and detail. This can make you resourceful, creative, and good at reading the needs and feelings of others, but only when you are feeling solid and confident. Conflict and disapproval can unnerve you and lead to putting a fortress around yourself and hunkering down. You are much stronger than you know, and you need to remind yourself of your capabilities and mother wit. Don’t waste time, energy, and emotion in endless loops dealing with fears and making defensive plans. Trust in instinct and your skills to get you around or, if absolutely needed, through any circumstance you encounter.

You have very high standards and expectations, and you apply them vigorously to yourself. Be as kind or kinder to yourself than you are to others. Many people will offer you their secrets and show their true face to you because they feel the nature of your soul. You are a protector, a guardian, and a good friend to the powers of life and healing. You are consistently the happiest when you can see the good you've done in someone's life. You value love, connection, and a comfortable home above all else. This in turn means you will find a way to prosper in the world on your terms so that you can have and protect what you hold most dear.

A Cancer Moon produces an aura with a magnetic pull that wants to merge with whatever is nearby. Imagine two drops of water growing closer until they barely touch and how they pull together to become one larger drop. Your aura is more likely to retain the patterns and energies that it touches. This can be a good thing or a problem depending on what is absorbed. The last spell or ritual you did can get sometimes stuck in your head like a song on repeat, so cleanse thoroughly. You have a gift for lunar magick, ancestral practices, and healing with a special connection to birth or death doula work.

Moon in Leo

Fiery Leo encourages you to be more outgoing than most other Cancers. You share your emotions readily and crave being seen and being at the center of things. This Moon pushes you to be courageous and bold. This combination of fire and water also brings a fascination with music, theater, architecture, literature, and the arts in all their forms. You have a great deal of creativity that arises from Leo's passion and Cancer's emotion. This combination can lead to great success in life if you learn to listen to

people's ideas, especially if you think you are right and they are wrong. Leo's roar and Cancer's strong defenses can make it hard to get a reality check from the world. You really are amazing, but you'll be better off if you broaden your understanding of what others think.

You are a competent leader, and when your boss is incompetent, you'll find some way around them. You really want to be number one in most settings, but you can be a good team player as long as you feel you are being appreciated. The same is true in your personal life, except the focus is on mutual appreciation and enthusiastic support. When you do not feel appreciated in any part of your life, you can begin to think yourself the martyr and become the wrong kind of crabby. Remind yourself that you do not need to stay in a bad situation; speak up, transform it, or move on. You have a strong sense of honor and loyalty, and sometimes these are at odds with one another. As much as you would like to, don't sort through this by yourself. You do best when you talk things through with a trusted friend or loved one.

A Leo Moon, like all the fire element Moons, easily stretches forth to connect with the energy of other beings. The fiery qualities act to cleanse and protect your aura from picking up other people's emotional debris or being influenced by your environment. The Leo Moon also makes it easier for you to find your center and stay centered. You can act like a catalyst that awakens magick in the people around you when you reach out your energy. You can also unintentionally awaken ghosts and memories that slumber in buildings or places. You have a flair for writing and conducting rites of passage and of empowerment.

Moon in Virgo

This very practical Moon tends to help you understand the world and become wise to its ways at a young age. Your Cancerian caution is backed up by your understanding of the rules. You are a good planner and organizer. You take your time to analyze situations and make decisions, which builds self-confidence and gains the trust of those around you. When you are rushed, you tend to feel anxious and insecure. You are normally forbearing and tolerant; when you act impatient or short-tempered, it is time to take a break to take care of yourself. If you push on out of a sense of duty, you'll just be going through the motions and sooner or later will be snapping at people. This will generally lead to harsh self-criticism. You have a strong sense of right and wrong and a love of tradition, which can bring you joy and challenges.

You feel at peace when you do your part to improve yourself and others. The challenge is to do this without being smothering, overly critical, or losing yourself in the process. There is a part of you that will always remember being the child or young adult hiding and watching to find your way into life. You learned how to observe and understand people's emotions and motivations during that time. Let that sensitivity give you the strength you need and the clarity to do your best. That quavering sensation inside you can be perceived as fear or as guidance like the wiggle of a compass needle. As your self-knowledge grows, you will be more comfortable with yourself, and you will be more flexible and less conventional in how you live. You will also allow yourself fun and recreation.

A Virgo Moon, like all the earth element Moons, generates an aura that is magnetic and pulls energy inward. This Moon also makes it easier to create strong thoughtforms and energy constructs. You have strong shields, but if breached, your shields will tend to hang on to the pattern of injury; get some help with the healing. Spells and workings related to oaths, promises, bindings, and agreements are assisted by this Moon. House blessings and cleansings of people or places may be part of your work.

Moon in Libra

Cardinal air joined with cardinal water fosters a nature that is sensitive, caring, and has a deep love of peace and harmony. Where they overlap or are in sympathy, the Libra traits and the Cancer traits are magnified. You have great emotional intelligence and a drive for fairness. The downside is that your Cancer Sun wants solitude and your Libra Moon wants to step out into the world. There is also a strange dance between dependence, independence, and interconnection that runs through your thoughts and feelings. Your conflicting needs when balanced make you thoughtful, compassionate, and excellent in jobs that involve helping, healing, or harmonizing people. It is easier to achieve and maintain this balance when you have a good home and loving people in your life. Take your time, be picky, and believe that you'll find them. When you do not have solid support in your life, you underestimate yourself, you push people away at the same time that you feel lonely, and engage in other mismatches of Cancer and Libra patterns.

When this combination is managed well, your caring nature and integrity bring out the best in all the people around you. You can be one of the anchors and foundations around which pockets of peace, growth, and contentment can form. You can create the safe spaces that others need and you value. Trust in the significance of your feelings and your thoughts, and you will act in accordance with your values. You hate to disappoint and fall short of other people's expectations, but you must live in your truth and not theirs. This Sun and Moon combination is a rough gem that can be shaped and polished to be absolutely brilliant. Trust that this is in your power, and it will be.

A Libra Moon, like all the air Moons, makes it easier to engage in soul travel and psychism and gives the aura greater flexibility. When you are working well with your Libra Moon, you can make yourself a neutral and clear channel for information from spirits and other entities. This Moon makes it possible for you to enter many forms of trance and altered states. It is a good idea to have a helper and protective magick in play when doing

trance work. You are also able to tune in to unspoken requests when doing divinatory work. This Moon also helps you do work for sweetening sour situations, peace, healing emotions, and encouraging personal development.

Moon in Scorpio

A Scorpio Moon means double the water, so it is as intense as it gets. You aren't often perceived as a classic Cancer because of your forceful charisma and facility with engaging in conflict. Scorpio is fixed water, so your emotions are channeled toward specific purposes. You are always planning and contemplating your next move. You are also good at keeping it all secret until it serves you to reveal yourself. You either come across as mysterious or, if you are doing a better job, as the mild and polite one no one would suspect of being a mastermind. You can look cool, calm, and collected even when you are a whirlpool of emotion. You are more of a risk-taker than the average Cancer because you are achievement driven and have the strength to follow through. You rarely give yourself downtime even when it looks like you are resting. You know how to be a chameleon, how to code shift, so you can fit in with a wide range of people and circumstances.

You are passionate, loyal, and extremely protective of the people and things in your life. When you listen to people, you do it with your whole soul, and they can feel it. This will draw people to you, but not all of them are good for you. Despite your strength, your emotions are easily wounded. It also takes you a long time to release or at least to set aside your distress. This can create a pattern where you become too vigilant of potential trouble and can waste time and energy on baseless suspicions. The more you learn to move on and leave the past behind, the less your present will be cluttered

with obstacles created by outworn emotions. It's hard, but if you can learn to laugh more and strike out less, you'll be better off. Dark humor works just as well, if that makes it easier.

A Scorpio Moon, like all the water Moons, gives the aura a magnetic pull that wants to merge with whatever is nearby. You easily absorb information about other people, spirits, places, and so on. Your path for purification is to feel things fully so you can fully release them. Your words or thoughts can turn into magick when you are emotional, so be careful. You have a gift for removing obstacles, road opening, and extracting attachments from auras.

Moon in Sagittarius

Your Sagittarius Moon wants to go on adventures and escapades and wants to drag you out of your home and hearth. This Moon also makes you more buoyant and likely to see the glass as half full rather than half empty. You still have a bit of that Cancer reserve, but once you start talking, you become a great storyteller and a charmer. You do have to be a little careful because Sagittarius likes to blurt out what Cancer would keep private. Your emotional nature is brightened and balanced with a curious mind that ponders the meaning of everything you encounter. You love what is homey and familiar, but this Moon also opens you to appreciate other people and other culture's approaches to living. One of the ways that you make more of the world feel like home to you is by creating networks of friendships and associations.

You are caring, attentive, and open-minded about many things. When you care about someone, they can feel your support from miles away. Because you look like you are full of happy-go-lucky energy and poise, others tend not to notice when you need bolstering and some appreciation. You can be

direct about most things but find it hard to ask for support or help. You might as well take control by asking for what you need, because sooner or later it will come out in an uncontrolled torrent. When you find something new that catches your attention, you can become a bit obsessive. This is how you have expanded and continue to expand your knowledge on so many topics. One of the reasons you are good at tackling almost any task is that you are a generalist who loves to learn more. Just try not to neglect urgent tasks and duties when on a learning spree.

The auras of people with Sagittarius Moon are the most adaptable of the fire Moons. Your energy can reach far and change its shape easily. You are particularly good at affecting other people's energy or the energy of a place. Like the other fire Moons, your aura is good at cleansing itself, but it is not automatic and requires your conscious choice. You may have a favorite type or style of witchcraft or magick, but you are a generalist at heart. You can fit into a wide range of traditions and rituals so well that you may be mistaken for being a member when you are a guest.

Moon in Capricorn

Capricorn is the sign opposite to Cancer, so this Moon brings power and a strained dynamic. The grounded and practical cardinal earth of Capricorn increases your ambition and your drive to become a force to be reckoned with. Your Cancerian intuition and your Capricorn logic are an unbeatable combination. One downside to this combination is that you are prone to worry and to be harshly critical of yourself. When you are impatient or thoughtless in pursuing your goals and hurt someone, you will be remorseful and dwell in those negative emotions longer than you should. You like being in control and projecting dignity and strength, and when

your control slips, you know you need a break. Solitude is rejuvenating for you, and you prefer to get your game face back on in private. However, prolonged isolation is hazardous to your mental and physical health.

Out of necessity, you grew up faster than would have been ideal. This made you adaptable and a deep thinker. This made you resilient, observant, and reliable, but a little afraid of revealing deeper parts of yourself. You can have great success in the world, but your Cancer Sun will not be content until you have the homelife you need. You need to give and receive trust and devotion to feel at ease in the world. On your journey to finding your best life, be wary of using artificial substitutes for what truly nourishes your soul. Power, conquests, a brief high, or shallow relationships will not work to satiate your hunger. You are outstanding in your capacity to understand people's feelings and motivations. Turn that discernment inward, see all that you are, and embrace it fully. You'll have to do this periodically, but what you will gain is comfort and pride in who you are. That is what will bring you to your best life.

A Capricorn Moon, like all the earth element Moons, generates an aura that is magnetic and pulls energy inward. What you draw to yourself tends to stick and solidify, so be wary, especially when doing healing work or cleansings. The magick of a Capricorn Moon is excellent at imposing a pattern or creating a container in a working. Your spells and workings tend to be durable. You have a talent for crafting magick spontaneously. Perhaps your best gift is in spells for prosperity, gaining favor, and manifesting circumstances you desire.

Moon in Aquarius

This Moon makes for a Cancer who is attracted to the new, the quirky, the radical, the offbeat, the cutting edge of the new. Many Cancers lean a bit toward the tried and true, but you like to shake it up. Cancers like traditions, and this Moon emboldens you to create new traditions. Aquarius is an air sign, and this Moon adds a great deal of intellectual energy that can be applied however you choose. You do have to work on staying focused because you have so many things that tug at your attention. You are idealistic and view the world through your philosophy and ideology. You try to make what you see fit your pattern of ideas, and it is not always a good fit. Don't be disenchanted when reality crashes in on what you wish it were. Think of it as gaining more information that can help you steer things in the right direction. Don't underestimate your psychic skills; you have an abundance of them. What you need is belief and practice. You always have one foot in the future in both mundane and magickal affairs.

You do have a great mind and are well informed on many topics, but if someone else is speaking from their life experience or education, listen to them. You are so self-assured about what you believe and what you know that you can unknowingly drift into the self-importance zone. You are a great believer in freethinking and open communication. You can promote better discussions by being a more attentive listener. You have a desire to emphasize your individuality and a deep longing for closeness and intimacy. These are sometimes at odds with each other. Although true for most people, you need more than a heart connection for close friendships and relationships. There must either be a pronounced similarity between your two minds or a significant difference with a great mutual respect.

Like all the air Moons, the Aquarius Moon encourages a highly mobile and flexible aura. You have an air Moon, so grounding is important, but focusing on your core and center is more important. From that center, you can strengthen and stabilize your power. Regular meditation would help you greatly. You have skill in divination for groups, whether that be covens, businesses, nations, or circumstances that affect many. There is also a gift for enchanting objects, especially ones that enhance the bearer's powers.

Moon in Pisces

This gives you double the water and brings in the mutable water of Pisces. These two waters come together to produce a constant flow and churn of emotion. You live and breathe emotion more than most people. This gives you a remarkable imagination, great sensitivity, and an affectionate heart. You are strongly affected by music, poetry, theater, and all the arts. You may try your hand at the arts as well. You know how to express your spirit. You are the best of listeners and providers of nurturing and solace. You can follow, intuit, understand, and filter what you hear, see, and feel until it makes sense. You fall into an empathetic connection easily with people, places, and things. The way your Cancerian drive for self-protection manifests is in trying to create peace so that you will have peace.

You'll do better in life if you develop your skills in logic and critical thinking. You are psychic, intuitive, and instinct driven, which often serves you well. However, you can be overwhelmed and carried away on the tide of emotional perceptions. Having an intellectual anchor will bring more steadiness to your life. Also, it will help you discern which emotions are yours and which are other people's emotions that you are perceiving. This will help you screen out the people who are drawn to your light but are not good for you. Though you are so very good at taking care of people's needs, you do better if you find someone who will provide a safe harbor for you. You need a place where you can be fully yourself and be seen.

With a Pisces Moon, the emphasis should be on learning to feel and control the rhythm of your energetic motion in your aura. Water Moon sign auras are flexible, cohesive, and magnetic, so they tend to ripple and rock like waves. Pisces Moon is the most likely to pick up and hang on to unwanted emotions or energies. Rippling your energy and bouncing things off the

outer layers of your aura is a good defense. Be careful, develop good shielding practices, and make cleansing yourself and your home a regular practice. You can be good at dreamwork, astral magick, and trance states. The magick of bodies of water, especially the sea, comes easily to you.

Cancer Major Arcana The Chariot

All the Water Signs The Ace of Cups

Cancer Minor Arcana

2 of Cups	Venus in Cancer
3 of Cups	Mercury in Cancer
4 of Cups	Moon in Cancer

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My Most Cancer Witch Moment

Madame Pamita

One of the things that happens when you get to be an old crone who has been practicing magic for decades is that you get to reflect on your own path and its twists and turns throughout the years. When looking back at my own witchcraft journey, I can see how being a Cancer witch showed up at important moments in my spiritual life. Having a very strong intuitive sense is one of the great strengths that Cancers possess, and one of my most Cancer witch moments was learning to trust that natural intuition.

When I look back, I see that the gift of intuition was always there waiting to be expressed. As a young girl, I was fascinated with everything fortune-telling related. I'd read the daily horoscope in the newspaper, I'd save up my money and buy monthly horoscope Starscrolls from the convenience store vending machine, I always gravitated to the Zoltar fortune-teller at the arcade, and I had a deck of Witch Fortune-Telling Cards that I would play with, pretending to do readings.

In 1974, when I was ten years old, my family took a trip to Salem, Massachusetts. As we meandered around looking at the historic sites, we stepped into a little gift shop—Laurie Cabot's now-legendary Crow Haven Corner, her second shop after her original Witch Shoppe moved. Stopping at a witch-themed shop in Salem doesn't seem like a stretch today, but while there were occult stores scattered throughout the country, Laurie Cabot's shop was the first specifically identifying as a store for witches.

Once inside, my mother told me I could choose a souvenir, so I selected a miniature Rider-Waite-Smith tarot deck. Without a doubt, that little deck was the first tarot deck I had ever seen, and when I look back, I marvel that little me would choose it. At that age, how did I even know it was a fortune-telling tool? Had I seen tarot decks in movies? Was I a reader in a past life?

No matter how I discovered them, I do remember hoping I would be able to take them home and finally be able to tell real fortunes. My mother bought the deck for me and I took it back to the car, eagerly removed the cellophane, and shuffled through the cards to discover what secrets they could reveal to me.

I remember flipping through A. E. Waite's little white book with its cryptic and esoteric meanings for each of the cards and feeling even farther away from my dream of ever learning to tell fortunes. So, resourceful girl that I was, I instead decided to play with them like paper dolls, building up backstories for the characters on each of the cards and having them go on adventures together.

Later, in my teens, I found books on the tarot and started to do readings by laying out the cards in a spread and then looking up the meanings of each card. It felt a little like cheating. It certainly didn't tap into my intuition, nor did it make me feel like a real fortune-teller. After all, who sees a tarot reader in a movie looking up each card in a book? However, it was serviceable as a way to do readings for myself and my friends.

As I got into my twenties and began learning magic and witchcraft with a formal Wiccan coven, I began to take my studies more seriously. I bought more books and took workshops on tarot reading. There were a few women in the group who were very adept at cartomancy, and the way they effortlessly threw down a Celtic Cross and looked from card to card describing what was going on in my life and revealing what was to come was endlessly fascinating to me. Instead of just seeing a reader in a film, I got to watch these readers up close. Instead of ruining the mystery for me, they made me desire to be a reader even more.

When the weather got crisp in the autumn, I vowed that I would memorize the meanings of the cards and finally master being a reader. But remember us Cancers, we're great at starting things, but not so great when it comes to follow-through. On the first day, I sat down with my deck and my book and picked up The Fool card and the little white book and began to memorize what it meant in a reading: folly, mania, extravagance, intoxication, delirium, frenzy, bewrayment; and reversed: negligence, absence, distribution, carelessness, apathy, nullity, vanity. The next day, I reviewed

The Fool and memorized The Magician. The following day, I reviewed The Fool and The Magician and memorized The High Priestess, and so on.

By the time I reached the ninth or tenth card (The Hermit and The Wheel of Fortune), I began to get distracted. I would miss a day, and then have to learn two cards in one day. Then I would get too busy to study and miss three days, a week, a month, and then I would just give up on the whole project entirely and go back to reading while looking up meanings in the book.

When the fall rolled around the next year, I vowed that this winter would be the one where I learned a card a day, and I began the cycle again, and again I abandoned it before even finishing learning the twenty-two cards of the Major Arcana.

I went through this cycle for a few years before I finally just resigned myself to the fact that I was never going to be a real reader like the women in my coven. I never gave up on the cards, though; I continued to read about them, play with them, and do readings with them with a book by my side.

One day, my magical friend Laura came for a visit to Los Angeles and stayed with me. Sitting around my apartment passing the time, she saw the deck of tarot cards on my altar and said, “Let’s do a tarot reading for you.” Like most witches, I was thrilled at the idea of receiving a reading from someone whom I loved and trusted. We sat down at the kitchen table and she had me ask a question, shuffle the cards, cut the deck, and lay out three cards on the table. To this day, I can’t remember what question I asked (knowing me, it was probably about my love life), but I distinctly remember the cards I drew: the 6 of Swords, the 3 of Wands, and the 3 of Cups. I sat back in my chair, waiting to hear what she had to say about the matter, but instead she said, “You’re going to read the cards.” Bummer. This was not the treat of a reading I was expecting.

“I don’t know how to read,” I said as I got up to get my tarot book.

“Sure you do,” she said, “You’ve been around the cards long enough to know. Just look at the images on the cards and see how they relate to your situation.”

And just like that, I started to rattle off what they meant.

“Well, it looks like I’m leaving this relationship behind, that I have to leave it behind. It makes me sad, but I have support around me …” I began. And just like that, the story of what was behind me, where I was at the moment, and what was in store ahead just poured out of me. My intuition just opened up like the Sun’s rays breaking through the clouds in the sky. My self-doubt, the perfectionism, and the fear just left me. I could read the cards. I was a reader.

I couldn’t believe how simple that moment was but how consequential it became. Nowadays, I always say to Laura, “You were the key master who unlocked everything for me.” And I mean it with true sincerity. That one moment unlocked the door that released all the years of using the cards as paper dolls as a kid and developing that personal relationship with each card. It opened up the years of getting readings from friends and giving readings to friends. It made a space for all the information I had gathered by reading books on tarot. It felt like a tidal surge of enlightenment flowing through me. Someone believed in my gifts and saw that I had more in me than I could see myself.

Once I got permission to trust my own intuitive sense of the cards, all sorts of interesting things began to happen. I started reading tarot books in a new way. Instead of trying to memorize the meanings of the cards, I started looking at other people’s interpretations as something I could take or leave: if a certain definition of a card worked for me, I would add it to my understanding of the card. If it didn’t, I didn’t feel like I had to shoehorn it into my mental dictionary. I just flipped the page and forgot about it. I started to read for others without looking up the meanings in a book, and my readings got more accurate and applicable to the situation. I began to trust my intuition more even when I wasn’t doing a reading. If I got an intuitive hit, I listened to it rather than brushing it aside.

The gifts that Cancer witches have, like empathy, compassion, and, of course, intuition, are not things that are highly valued in our culture. We’re not taught how to recognize them nor enhance them, and certainly we are not celebrated for having these traits. But what society sees as no big deal

might just well be the very special Cancer witch gift you have to bring to the world.

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Your Rising Sign's Influence

Ivo Dominguez, Jr.

The rising sign, also known as the ascendant, is the sign that was rising on the eastern horizon at the time and place of your birth. In the birth chart, it is on the left side of the chart on the horizontal line that divides the upper and lower halves of the chart. Your rising sign is also the cusp of your first house. It is often said that the rising sign is the mask you wear to the world, but it is much more than that. It is also the portal through which you experience the world. The sign of your ascendant colors and filters those experiences. Additionally, when people first meet you, they meet your rising sign. This means they interact with you based on their perception of that sign rather than your Sun sign. This in turn has an impact on you and how you view yourself. As they get to know you over time, they'll meet you as your Sun sign. Your ascendant is like the colorful clouds that hide the Sun at dawn, and as the Sun continues to rise, it is revealed.

The rising sign will also have an influence on your physical appearance as well as your style of dress. To some degree, your voice, mannerisms, facial expressions, stance, and gait are also swayed by the sign of your ascendant. The building blocks of your public persona come from your rising sign. How you arrange those building blocks is guided by your Sun sign, but your Sun sign must work with what it has been given. For witches, the rising sign shows some of the qualities and foundations for the magickal personality you can construct. The magickal personality is much more than simply shifting into the right headspace, collecting ritual gear, the lighting of candles, and so on. The magickal persona is a construct that is developed through your magical and spiritual practices to serve as an interface between different parts of the self. The magickal persona, also known as the magickal personality, can also act as a container or boundary so that the mundane and the magickal parts of a person's life can each have its own

space. Your rising also gives clues about which magickal techniques will come naturally to you.

This chapter describes the twelve possible arrangements of rising signs with a Cancer Sun and what each combination produces. There are 144 possible kinds of Cancers when you take into consideration the Moon signs and rising signs. You may wish to reread the chapter on your Moon sign after reading about your rising sign so you can better understand these influences when they are merged.

Aries Rising

Aries is cardinal fire, which adds to your Sun's cardinal energy. You act more outgoing and courageous than most Cancers and have a commanding presence. You are more impulsive and more direct as well. This rising will encourage you to be more engaged with life. When you are feeling blue, this rising will find an activity that will brighten you up. This is a stormy combination of fire and water, so your moods and thoughts are right on the surface and change quickly. This can be confusing, maybe even maddening, to others, so try to be kind as they try to keep up with you. Try to explain what you are thinking and feeling rather than letting others interpret what they see. You can be a volatile mixture of passion, emotion, and will.

Having the ruling planets of the Moon and Mars active means you are more likely to be bold and like to start and to take charge of situations. You are also more likely to openly engage in conflict than most Cancers. Your Sun is still in Cancer, so there is a cost to all this bravado. Your body still feels the stress, so your self-care practices need to be on point. Even though you

are being productive, when you find yourself acting irritable, it is a sign that your stress is in the danger zone.

An Aries rising means that when you reach out to draw in power, both water and fire will answer easily. If you need other types of energy, you need to reach farther, focus harder, and be more specific in your request. This combination lets you draw upon the prana, life force, that exists everywhere to power your work. You can also act as a battery or conduit to bolster other people's magickal gifts. You excel at spells for strength, confidence, or removing obstacles. These can be cast for yourself or others.

Taurus Rising

This combination is a comfortable blending of traits and energy. The sensual and earthy nature of Taurus dovetails with Cancer's love of the comforts of home and of stability. You prefer to take life at a slower pace and to have time to process events. Your family of birth and/or choice is central to most of the choices you make. You put a fair amount of energy into figuring out how to make sure you and yours can live comfortably. You are aware of the importance of what money can buy and what happens when there is not enough. However, make sure that you make space in your life to have fun. There is not much point to working so hard and not allowing yourself the rewards that come of that labor.

Venus rules Taurus and, combined with the Moon for Cancer, encourages you to be trustworthy, circumspect, and welcoming. Your home, or truthfully wherever you sit down, becomes a warm and safe space for others. In some regards, your pleasant nature is your primary defense against the world. When this does not work, you can be very formidable,

but you'd rather not fight if you can avoid it. Once someone or something is labeled a hazard, it is very difficult to change your mind. In general, this combination produces some of the most obstinate and tenacious Cancers.

Taurus rising gives more strength in your aura and the capacity to maintain a more solid shape to your energy. This gives you stronger shields and allows you to create thoughtforms and spells that are longer lasting. This combination gives you more control of your cardinal water so you can push harder safely. Working with plants and plant spirits as well as crystals is favored. You may have a gift for communicating with land spirits and spirits of place.

Gemini Rising

Airy Gemini encourages your quiet Cancer nature to talk about everything, and often. The normal sense of privacy expected from a Cancer is overwhelmed by this communicative and inquisitive rising. You are quick-minded and often have an excellent sense of humor. Making people laugh or seeing them have fun is relaxing for you. This rising's mutable nature gives you more flexibility so that you are at ease in many more situations than the average Cancer. You crave change and stimulation. You may travel more and at the least interact with more people regularly as well. You are starry-eyed and have a rich imagination, so when your Cancer nature overrules the rising, you'll travel and explore from home by reading, web surfing, and so on.

When you feel cornered or contradicted, this combination results in the ability to give the most amazing verbal smackdown. This stops relatively quickly because Gemini is ruled by Mercury, but internally you continue to stew on things as a Cancer does. Unfortunately, this is invisible, so unless

the source of the irritation knows you well enough, they are likely to set you off again. Learn to assume obliviousness, distraction, or lack of knowledge rather than spiteful intent on the part of others. It will play better for you, and if it is malice, that will become clear quickly enough. Keep picking whatever you want to accomplish and get there one step at a time to reach your career and life goals.

This rising helps your energy and aura stretch farther and adapt to whatever it touches. This combination can lend itself to spirit communication and divination in all forms. You do better in short but intense magickal efforts rather than long ones. You have a gift that can help or hinder technology and can impact the digital realm. Weather prediction or weather magick can be part of your work.

Cancer Rising

Double Cancer means that your emotional nature is not moderated by your rising sign. It is your normal to have tears ready to come streaming, a catch of emotion in your voice at a sentimental sight, a hug at the ready for those in need, and a protective shell as cold as the sea. You are a bit of a workaholic because you want to make sure you and yours will not lack anything. Much of your energy is focused on providing for the people and things you care about. Be careful, or so much will be consumed by this work that little will be left for you. Also, you may drive away those you care for by holding them too tightly.

The Moon truly rules you, so be mindful of how your moods shift so that you can live more mindfully. Step back regularly and gain some perspective on your circumstances. When you get the balance right, you'll be happier, and you will bring safety and warmth into the lives of your beloveds. You'll

also be a good dealmaker and mediator, which will serve you at work and at home. Your emotional nature is a power when embraced and treated with respect. Once in a while, you need to let go of some of the objects that represent memories to you or you'll drown in them.

Cancer rising grants the power to use your emotions, or the emotional energy of others, to power your witchcraft. Though you can draw on a wide range of energies to fuel your magick, raising power through emotion is the simplest. This rising gives skill in using the power of Moon magick. You are also good at charging oils, waters, and other liquids. You may also have a calling for dreamwork, house blessings, or past-life recall.

Leo Rising

Leo gives you a desire to be seen that counterbalances your Cancer Sun's innate shyness. Sometimes you are the center of attention, and sometimes you have arranged it so someone else shines. Pride in your accomplishments and honor shapes your motivations. Your Cancerian desire to work hard is blended with the Leo desire to shine. This encourages you to develop your skills and do amazing things. You do love to tell a good tale, which means sometimes you adjust the truth to make it more exciting. This is all good until your stories cast others in an unfavorable light. This eventually causes problems for you, so learn to edit your stories on the fly to avoid issues.

Having the Sun and the Moon as the ruling planets in this combination tells you how much light you have to shine. You forgive more readily than most Cancers because you can understand a broad range of people and glimpse into their character. You will sacrifice almost anything for those you care

about and are generous with most people. You may be called to work in large institutions or organizations that serve the public. It is essential that you find the right proportion of time to give to your homelife and your public life. Whether or not you have children, you are drawn to work that helps young people.

Leo rising means that when you reach out to draw in power, fire will answer as easily as water. If you need other types of energy, you need to reach farther, focus harder, and be more specific in your request. Your aura and energy are brighter and steadier than most people's, so you attract the attention of spirits, deities, and so on. Your Sun and rising give you an aptitude for energy healing work. You also can control the emotional and spiritual atmosphere of a room with ease. Your words, whether written, spoken, or sung, have power.

Virgo Rising

This rising brings practical skills, attention to detail, and volunteer spirit to your personality. Your precise, modest, and careful style of communication endears you to many. You are fair and sought out for projects that need a delicate touch. You work best by yourself unless you are the coordinator. You try to stay serene at all times, though you have strong emotions flowing under your façade. Although you want perfection and can spot the smallest of flaws, you manage to not tell everyone the whole list of problems you can see. You aim for peace, but if you are pushed too far, you apply your intelligence and your understanding of emotions to bring about what you view as a fair punishment. It is best if people stay on your good side.

You are always learning new things because, despite being practical and grounded, you need mental stimulation. Moreover, much of your self-worth comes from feeling competent. The people who love you care about you, not your accomplishments, but you feel safer when you can make their lives better. You like to show how you feel through deeds rather than words. One way or another, you create a place of caring and love for your dear ones.

Virgo rising with a Cancer Sun makes it easier to work with goddesses and gods who are connected to writing, wisdom, and crafts. You are good at spells and rituals to let go of patterns and habits that do not serve you. You are a good diagnostician who can figure out what is wrong with a ritual, what is preventing a healthy flow of energy in a person or home, and so on. Be careful when you entwine your energy with someone else's because you can pick up and retain their patterns and issues. Always cleanse your energy after doing solo or collective work.

Libra Rising

This is a challenging combination when you are young because Libra's desire for connection and Cancer's need for closeness and safety often result in feelings being hurt regularly. You have more sensitivity and emotional perception than most of your peers, which can bring you pain. As you gain more control of yourself and the course of your life, you create places and spaces filled with beauty. Your sense of proportion, aesthetics, balance, and harmony can serve you in many careers. You also have a knack for seeing all sides and coming up with a reasonable sense of the truth. When you are asked to resolve problems, you can do so with grace, even though you feel a great deal of stress when faced with the possibility of causing offense.

Try to worry less about causing distress and strive to speak your truth fully and gently. Libra rising and Cancer Sun people often think they are being harsh when speaking what needs to be said. This rising increases your Cancerian longing for home, hearth, and intimacy. If you want this, you will have it. Don't forget that, like the Moon's tides, relationships wax and wane, but trust that the cycle will continue. You will always have cycles of regeneration in your private life. When you trust yourself and embrace all your personality traits, you appreciate life with a clear mind and a full heart.

When you expand your aura, your personal energy can settle down an unruly or unwholesome atmosphere or calm down irritated spirits. Magick related to bringing peace or justice is favored by this combination. Rituals or spells to mend friendships and relationships or improve communication are favored. This combination also works well in creating crystal grids, working altars, magickal gardens, or other physical instances of beauty and magick. You can also act as a conductor in group work to bring everyone's power into focus.

Scorpio Rising

This double water combination more than doubles your emotional intensity and is both receptive and projective. Even sitting perfectly still, your energy can be felt filling the room. You have a strong-willed personality and you've known this a long time. You are more aggressive than most other Cancers, though you still prefer peace. If there is danger to you and yours, your protective instincts transform you into an impressive opponent. The fixed water of Scorpio means you almost never run out of energy, emotions, momentum, and willpower. You have deep reserves, and they regenerate quickly. When at peace, you have a heart of gold that pours out devotion,

charm, and kindness. You prefer the edges and extremes of most things in life.

You are devoted to friends, family, lovers, and more. Honestly, you can't bear to see an underdog being harmed or an injustice at play. You tend to jump into the middle of a problem ready to fight, sweet-talk, distract, or do whatever else is needed to set things right. You exude an attractive energy, so you will always be able to find friends and lovers. To attain a long-lasting and stable homelife, you will need to set aside jealousy and envy as much as possible. Also, you tend to attract turbulent times, so the people closest to you need to be strong and tolerant.

Scorpio rising makes your energy capable of pushing through most energetic barriers. You can dissolve illusion or bring down wards or shields and see through to the truth. You may have an aptitude for breaking curses and lifting oppressive spiritual atmospheres. It is important that you do regular cleansing work for yourself. You are likely to end up doing messy work, and you do not have a nonstick aura. You are a natural in rituals or workings to call the dead, reveal hidden truths, or open portals.

Sagittarius Rising

Fiery mutable Sagittarius loves change, exploration, and taking risks. This is not Cancer's comfort zone at all. This rising sign may draw you into uncomfortable settings, but they are exactly what you need to grow. You are perceived to have high principles, a friendly personality, and a wide range of interests. You know how to adapt to most social or professional settings. You are generally lucky and attract new roads and open doors when you need help. What is difficult is the strain between your Cancer inner needs and the Sagittarius exterior that invites too much excitement. When you

don’t get enough recovery time, you fall into procrastination loops. Physical activities of any kind help you get back on track faster.

If you want to settle down, you’ll need to make some adjustments to your perspectives. The ideals and expectations you hold may be higher than you or anyone else can maintain. Look to the accepting nature of jovial Jupiter and look to understand the cycles of the Moon as symbolic of the flow of relationships and you’ll be fine. Your flaws and their flaws will either be mended over time or understood with compassion. This will bolster your already significant self-assurance.

Sagittarius rising adds mutable fire to your cardinal water, so your aura changes at will and holds its configuration. Talent in the use of candles, wands, or staves is favored by this combination. This is because you can push your energy and intentions into objects with ease. You have a talent for rituals and spells that call forth justice, wisdom, and freedom. You attract the attention of spirits and divine beings easily. You can be a voice for them if you wish. If you listen to an oath or a prayer, it is as if your act of listening transmits the words to where they need to go.

Capricorn Rising

Capricorn is Cancer’s opposite in the zodiac, so this rising is a challenge to balance home and hearth with the call to a career and prominence in the world. You are more serious and disciplined than most Cancers. You are extremely resourceful, methodical, and very little can stand in your way. You are good at repressing your emotions to get work done and can tolerate hardship until you meet your goals. This can make you seem cold, but under the surface, you still have the deep emotions of a Cancer. Also, your

motivation for all that hard work is to create the comfort and stability that Cancers need. A Capricorn rising gives you an extra hard shell, and you need it because you do feel vulnerable and are easily hurt.

Saturn is the ruling planet for this rising, so you are well aware of rules, limits, the fragility of life, and the mundane needs of existence. Saturn rules time, so you try to keep to schedules and routines. You are tough in the world, but you need tenderness at home. You need a place where you don't need to explain yourself and you can be silly if you like. Be careful about pushing on and staying on task when you are feeling glum. You do actually need rest and recreation, or you will crash hard and with little warning.

Capricorn rising creates an aura and energy field that is slow to come up to speed, but has amazing momentum once fully activated. Make it your habit to do some sort of energy work or meditative warm-up before engaging in witchcraft. You can draw power from the weather and from the tides. Your rituals and spells benefit from having a structure and a plan of action. Spells for removing obstacles, clear thinking, and business ventures are favored.

Aquarius Rising

You oscillate between seclusion and being highly social. Your friends never know what to expect until you open your mouth. You have a quirky sense of humor and can talk about almost anything, especially if it is new and on the edge. This combination gives you a sentimental attachment to the past but also a craving for the new and whatever comes next. You tend not to be good with schedules or routines and that can lead to being seen as unreliable. Calendars set with reminders are important if you are to reach your goals. You are creative and forward-thinking and would like to make a better world. To see your visions come true, you need to lean in harder

toward your Cancerian sense of duty. Your rising leads you to inspiration, but your Cancer Sun will get the job done.

You need peaceful times as much as you need stimulation. This is especially true on the home front. You may be attracted to flashy people, but when you have downtime, you need sincere and grounded people to recharge your batteries. You are less moody than most Cancers, and that is your normal. However, when it seems like your emotions are muted or clicked off completely, it's a sign that you are running low on energy or are in the midst of a predicament. It is good that you can achieve detachment, but it is not healthy for extended periods. Self-awareness is something you need to develop and maintain.

Aquarius rising makes it easier for you to consciously change the shape and density of your aura. This makes you a generalist who can adapt to many styles and forms of magick. Witchcraft focused on calling inspiration, creativity, and personal transformation is supported by this combination. Aquarius rising is gifted at turning ideas into reality. Mind magick, psychism, and energy work are good options for you.

Pisces Rising

This makes you a double water sign, so you are highly emotional, but Pisces rising adds perspective on the universality of your experiences. You see the personal meaning of daily life and how it relates to your culture and the cosmos. You give off an air of mystery, and many people find it hard to read you. On the other hand, you are always picking up information, emotion, and energy from other people. You have strong intuition and psychic skills worthy of development. Don't rely on just what you pick up

from people; ask questions. You need context to understand your perceptions. Otherwise, you'll jump to inaccurate conclusions.

You are strongly affected by colors, scents, and music, and these can be sources of healing and magick for you. Be careful with all substances, even caffeine, as your body and mind can react unpredictably to anything that alters your mood. You are humanistic and nurturing, but the broader perspective that comes with Pisces helps keep you calmer when working to help others. Always allow yourself enough time to do what you need to do. You do not do well when you feel rushed. Your need for sensuality, intimacy, and a blending of minds is very strong. A reliable and grounded partner in romance or work really improves the quality of your life.

Pisces rising with your Cancer Sun opens the gates of the imagination, the dreamworld, and the upperworld. You have a distinctive gift for helping others find their way to other levels of reality. You can learn mediumship, telepathy, and healing of the soul. You have a gift for interpreting and understanding old magick and updating it so it can be used now. Beautiful altars, stately rituals, chants, and sensory richness all fuel your magick.

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A Dish Fit for a Cancer:

Home Sweet Home

Roasted Chicken Dinner

Dawn Aurora Hunt

✷ ✷ ✷

Asimple and from scratch home-cooked meal from start to finish, with roasted chicken and thick onion gravy, might just be the perfect way to nurture yourself and others, Cancer. Serve this alongside steaming mashed potatoes and French-cut green beans.

Few things say “comfort food” like a full chicken dinner with mashed potatoes and gravy. Cancer loves the contentment of a cozy home. This meal made with love can connect you to memories, fill hearts with love, and be a gift to share with others as a way of creating a nourishing meal for the body as well as the heart. It is no surprise, since chicken is a food long associated with health and well-being and potatoes help with grounding energy. Cover them in onion gravy to banish negativity, and this meal is sure to please.

Ingredients:

5 pounds chicken parts separated, bone in, skin on

2 whole large onions cut into rounds

2 tablespoons olive oil

Juice from 1 lemon

1 teaspoon each: dried rosemary, dried thyme, dried parsley, salt, pepper, granulated onion, granulated garlic

For the gravy:

1 tablespoon cornstarch

½ cup white wine

1 cup chicken stock or broth

Salt and pepper to taste

Pinch dried thyme

Directions:

Heat the oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit. In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, lemon juice, rosemary, thyme, parsley, salt, pepper, granulated onion, and granulated garlic. Rub the mixture generously onto the chicken parts and let them rest in the refrigerator for at least an hour or overnight. In a large metal baking dish, lay all the onion rounds in a single layer. Next, layer the chicken parts on top of the onion rounds. Cover with foil and roast for twenty to thirty minutes until the thickest chicken parts are cooked through and the internal temperature tests at 165 degrees Fahrenheit. Then, remove the foil and roast for another ten minutes so that the skin gets crisp. Remove from the oven and remove the chicken to a serving plate. Cover and keep warm until serving.

To make the gravy, skim off as much of the excess fat from the pan as possible. Then take the metal pan, with the onions still in it from cooking, and put it directly on the stove top and turn the stove to medium heat. While the pan is hot, pour in the white wine to deglaze the pan. Using a fork, break up the pieces of onion left in the pan. Add the chicken broth and

whisk in the cornstarch, salt, and pepper. This will form the gravy. If it is too thick, add more chicken broth; if it is too loose, add more cornstarch. When gravy is your desired consistency, carefully pour it into a gravy boat or serving bowl and serve with chicken or atop mashed potatoes.

Note: If your diet precludes you from eating meat, you can still make a savory gravy perfect for pouring over potatoes or your favorite side dish. Simply roast four portabella mushrooms marinated in the olive oil mixture on top of the onions instead of the chicken. Substitute vegetable broth for chicken broth and remember to adjust the roasting time as to not burn the mushrooms. You can then remove the mushrooms from the pan and puree them in a food processor or blender to add back to the gravy for a rich and creamy texture.

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Recharging and Self-Care

Madame Pamita

Cancer witches are caretakers of everyone else in our lives—so much so that self-care is often the last thing on our to-do list (if it even makes the list at all). But we've got it all turned around. Listen to Moonchild Airlines flight attendant Pamita when I say to you, "First put the caretaking oxygen mask on yourself before you help someone else." If you fill your own cup, you'll have more to give others and still have some to spare for yourself at the end of the day.

Drink Water

Drinking more water should probably be on any sign's list, but it is especially important for watery Cancer witches. We Cancers are very oriented to our sense of taste, so if plain water is too boring for you, add some sunny citrus or moony cucumber slices or some fresh berries to give it a hint of flavor without adding calories or excess sugar. If the weather is cooler, you can make an herbal tea potion to get your daily dose of life-giving water (see Cleansing and Shielding for more on making potions).

Natural Water Activities

Spending time around natural water will always fill up a Cancer witch's energy. Spend a day at the seaside or in a mountain lake. Active Cancer witches might get recharged by surfing, boating, waterskiing, or kayaking.

If you can, go swimming or wading with a friend or simply sit in a lounge chair and listen to the soothing sounds of water. Learn about the spirits of the waters where you are and leave biodegradable natural offerings (such as flowers or crystals) at the shoreline to thank them for sharing their healing energy.

Express Your Creativity

Cancer witches sometimes like to express their emotions indirectly, often through creativity. Put on some dreamy music and dance around the house with some flowing movements. Pick up an instrument and write a song that conveys what your heart is feeling. Play with some watercolors just for fun. You don't have to pressure yourself by performing or showing your result to others. Just make it an offering to yourself or to your spirits or deities.

Redecorate Your Home

Redecorating a house sounds more like work than restoration to most people, but not to a Cancer witch. Creating a cozy haven for ourselves and our loved ones gives us a lot of satisfaction and is another way we can express our creative flair. It doesn't have to break the bank either. A fresh coat of paint on the walls or refinishing a thrift store furniture find can be just the thing to make our rooms feel even more welcoming. While you're making your redecorating plans, don't forget about zhuzhing up the bathroom. Make it an oasis of beauty and peace so you can really enhance your bath rituals. Don't have time or energy for a full room redecoration project right now? You can simply freshen up your home altar instead.

Try a New Recipe

Cooking comes naturally to most Cancer witches. We nurture others with food, so why not nurture ourselves? Create a self-love spell with magical foods. Use healing magical ingredients such as garden sage, rosemary, basil, lavender, or peppermint in your dishes or add sugar or honey to sweeten things up. Serve your delectable dish on your best china and be sure to plate it and add garnishes. If you get the itch to explore spells with magical foods from around the world and throughout history, I highly recommend the book The Magick of Food by Gwion Raven for some magical gastronomic inspo.

Make Nighttime Your Special Time

As Moon witches, we have a special affinity for the night. Throughout my life, I've always been a night owl. Perhaps you are, too. We seem to get our second wind after the Moon comes up. If you can do your self-care rituals after dark and especially under the moonlight, you might find that they have some extra power. Connecting with the Moon doesn't have to be a full-blown ritual (although those are really great). It can be as simple as going out for a nighttime stroll or sitting inside looking out at the Moon through your window. This "moonbathing" has the same effect on you that it has on your water or crystals. It charges you up with the Moon's energy and gives you a special radiant glow.

Pay Attention to Cycles

As Moonchildren, our whole life can be broken down into cycles: activity and rest, extroversion and introversion, productivity and dreaminess. What goes up must come down and then go back up again. These cycles were honored by our ancient ancestors in the seasonal holidays, life events, and even day-to-day rituals. In modern Western cultures, we are expected to be on the go 24-7, something that is totally unnatural for humans. Recognize and honor your own personal cycles with small magical rituals for

wakefulness and sleep, the cycles of menstruation, or even the seasonal cycles of activity in warm months and recuperation in cold ones.

Bring in Some Romance

Cancers love love. If we have been in a rock-solid relationship for decades or are on the lookout for a new love, we don't have to wait for romance in our lives. Watching a sweet rom-com or snuggling up with a romance novel can fill our hearts. Romance books and movies with a magical realism or fantasy twist will appeal to our mystical side.

Plan a Watery Vacay

Spending some time at a beachside resort or taking that long-dreamed-about Love Boat cruise is sure to recharge a Cancer witch's batteries, but planning the trip can be half the fun. Look through books, magazines, and websites to get some inspiration about a watery destination you'd like to visit. Tear out articles or cut out some photos to plan your itinerary. Whether you are planning your travel for an upcoming holiday or saving up your pennies for a vacation down the line, simply researching and dreaming about a vacation can be an exciting adventure, too.

Splurge on a Spa Day

Going to a spa can be like a mini vacation in itself. I've always found the time that I spend in a spa lets me put the cares of the outside world away for a while. Treat yourself to a mini holiday at a spa that has your favorite water features: plunge pools, Jacuzzis, and steam rooms, for example. Getting a massage, facial, or other treatment can be a special way to treat

yourself to something restorative, but if you don't want to bust your budget, you can find more economical ways to enjoy a spa day. Many five-star hotels have spas and offer day passes to their pool and spa for nonguests at a price that is far less than the cost of a room overnight.

If you live in a city with large immigrant populations who have a spa culture, you might find bathhouses and spas that offer day passes for a nominal fee. For example, in Los Angeles, there are many Korean spas that charge about 15 dollars for a day pass that includes all the basic amenities with deluxe services available for an additional fee. Don't forget to check online coupon sites like TravelZoo or Groupon for local specials. Many times they have spa passes with deep discounts.

Put On Your Bubble of Protection

One method of self-care that doesn't cost anything and can be done at a moment's notice is what I call the Bubble of Protection. If you are stressed and burnt out but don't have the luxury of being able to retreat into your cocoon, you can put a Bubble of Protection around yourself before you head out into the world. I love this visualization because it reminds me of the big pink bubble that is the mode of transportation for Glinda the Good Witch in the classic film The Wizard of Oz.

Take a moment to imagine a pink bubble in front of you. See that bubble grow until it becomes taller than you, then imagine yourself stepping inside that beautiful iridescent bubble. Good energy, love, and anything positive is able to pass through the walls of the bubble to get to you, but everything negative and unwanted cannot. Having this cozy bubble around you can make even a trip to the DMV magical.

Indulge in Some Retail Therapy

When most people think of going on a shopping expedition, they probably think of going to outlet stores, a street with cute little boutiques, high fashion name brands, or even late-night shopping online. For a Cancer witch, these can be fine, but what we really live for is the thrill of the hunt and finding treasures from the past.

When you feel the need for some retail therapy, a metaphysical shop or used bookstore can be a place where you can spend hours. Going collectible hunting at antique shops, thrift stores, and estate sales can be a fun way to spend the day with a friend, and when we find that perfect antique crystal ball or an old book about folk magic from the 1800s, we can feel a sense of excitement and discovery that even a trip to Rodeo Drive can't match.

Spending Time with Your Familiar

What's a witch without a familiar spirit? For hundreds of years, witches have been depicted with cats and dogs that were there to help them with their witchcraft. Witches have often lived their lives closely connected to the natural world, so it seems obvious that they would have a special animal as a close companion. Spending time with your fur baby can be a great way to recharge your batteries with a dose of unconditional love.

Most of the depictions of witches showed them with a dog or a cat, but these were not the only animals believed to be witches' familiars. Other creatures such as blackbirds, rats, hares, beetles, and butterflies were documented as alleged witches' familiars. Think outside the box when it comes to your special pets and consider bringing something aquatic into your life, such as an aquarium of fish, frogs, turtles, hermit crabs, crayfish, snails, or even water snakes. These beautiful beings will bring a touch of the watery wild into your domesticated life.

Your Recharge and Self-Care Shopping List

I recommend that you create a permanent list of the things that fill up your emotional tank. Anytime you start to feel depleted, you can refer to this list you've created and pick an activity for yourself. Need a quick dose of inspiration for your self-care list? Start with the ideas above and then add your own special ways to treat yourself.

Ginger—Zingiber officinale

Amount Dried: Half a teaspoon

Amount Fresh: A thumbprint-size chunk of the root, chopped

The roots of ginger warm us and are golden yellow, like the Sun. Ginger is a plant ally that inspires us to cultivate joy and play. Energizing and childlike, this rhizome helps bring our stomach heat to a gentle simmer, relieving gas and tenderizing tough-to-digest meals and experiences.

Fennel—Foeniculum vulgare

Amount Dried: A healthy pinch of the seeds

Amount Fresh: A full thumb's length of the stalk, chopped

This plant does it all and has a history of many uses for a variety of ailments, in addition to being a tasty food. Fennel is our regulator, the one who keeps us from going overboard while also picking us up when we're feeling down. I enjoy using the seeds, as they store well and are super potent, but any part of this plant is willing to assist in balancing out your digestive blues.

Peppermint—Mentha piperita

Amount Dried: A quarter's worth in your palm

Amount Fresh: A good handful, chopped

The coolness of peppermint is the counterbalance to ginger's warmth. Known to help with digestion, mint's internal tingle helps spread awareness and circulation. Spiritually, mints are talkers and one of my go-to communication herbs. If there is something you can't stomach, this lovely plant will help you vent and get it off your chest.

Directions:

Before brewing, crush the combined herbs in a clockwise motion using a mortar and pestle while chanting the following mantra nine times:

Bring me peace and rest, help me digest,

and lift the worry off my chest.

Boil your water and steep the herbs for at least ten minutes—the longer the better for a more medicinal effect. Sip the tea slowly and commit to doing so in a safe space until you finish your cup. As an added step, it's always a nice idea to practice gratitude for the plants that come to your rescue. Gratefulness also aids digestion.

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Don’t Blame It

on Your Sun Sign

Madame Pamita

When it comes to Sun signs, people seem to have a lot of opinions about Cancers. “You’re too emotional,” or, “Cancers just live in the past,” they’ll say. These judgey comments might have some basis in truth, but they only look superficially at the situation without deeper understanding of what’s going on under the surface. This doesn’t mean we have to educate everyone we meet on why we have to have a good cry for a few minutes, but if you understand yourself, you can express yourself to others and stop the astrological shaming in its tracks.

Cancers Are SO Moody

The number one thing that Cancers get shamed for is being “moody.” What does being moody even mean? I used to think it meant being depressed because that’s when that judgement usually gets thrown at us. Actually, being moody means our moods are changeable and can move quickly between happy and sad and angry, for example.

What the shamers don’t realize is that this is one of our best traits. There’s an old dad joke from way back: “If you don’t like the weather in our town, wait a minute,” meaning the weather is constantly changing. And it’s the same with Cancers’ moods. So the next time someone complains about your mood, tell them, “If you don’t like my mood, wait a minute.” Like a

cloud moving across the Sun, in a little while, we will emerge from our mood and be our sunny selves again.

That little dad joke is also helpful for reminding ourselves, too. Sometimes, when we are feeling blue, the emotion can be so intense that we might think we are going to feel that way forever. Remind yourself that your feelings will change, that you won't be stuck in that emotion, and that your good mood will return—probably pretty quickly.

Cancers Are Too Sentimental

Have you been accused of being too nostalgic? Too sappy, saccharine, or sweet? How about too homesick? There are always going to be those who view your sensitivity as a character flaw, that you're "letting your heart rule over your head," or that you're "irrational," but the truth is that your sentimentality is actually your secret superpower. Being sentimental means your emotions run deep. When a non-Cancer gets a feeling, they can sail over it or push it down. On the other hand, we put on the scuba gear and go for a deep dive.

Feeling this deeply allows us to be empathetic to others. We can put ourselves in someone else's place and understand how they are feeling, which can help us create strong connections to others. We really listen to others when they are sharing deep emotional truths so they can feel seen.

The real danger of our sentimentality is perhaps our selective memory about the past. For example, believing that "high school was the BEST time of my life!" when it was sometimes a struggle. Or only seeing the good in someone who is displaying some serious red flags and then making excuses for their bad behavior. When this happens, it's helpful to have that one close friend who will lovingly tell it like it is. The mutable signs (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, and Pisces) are able to look at things from a dispassionate distance and diplomatically give you an alternative view of the situation.

Cancers Are Petty as Hell

The shadow side of being emotionally deep is that we can sometimes get wounded over the smallest things. Someone not answering our text, a snarky comment from a stranger, or even an imagined slight of some kind from someone who has good intentions can feel like a slap in the face to us. It reminds me of those old movies where two gentlemen get into a duel to the death over someone insulting someone else's honor.

A long time ago, I was given a great piece of advice on how to deal with just these types of situations, and it seems tailor-made for a Cancer. If you're ready for revenge because someone looked at you the wrong way, do a revenge meditation. Go into your mind's eye and picture the clever, crafty, evil way you are going to destroy that person. Plan it all out and think of it over and over again … until it runs out of steam. Remember what I said about Cancer's mood being like the weather? In an hour or a day, you'll have had all the "fun" of imagining their demise with none of the consequences of actually carrying it out. With a little time passing, you won't feel so hurt, and you might be able to see the interaction from a different perspective.

Cancers Are Hiding Something

One of the things Cancer witches get accused of is being too secretive. They might call it sneaky and shady; I call it delightfully mysterious. Just like the Moon is full of secrets and mystery, so are we. We aren't the ones who air every detail of our lives out on social media. In fact, quite the opposite. We might even have a public persona and a private one we only reveal to our closest friends. We are crabs, and that public image is the protective shell that guards our squishy insides.

I remember when I was a teen and twenty-something studying witchcraft. Even though I was surrounded by offbeat and open-minded people, I didn't tell too many folks what I was up to. Why? Because my craft and my

spiritual beliefs were too precious to me. It would have been devastating to me if anyone I liked or respected called me a wacko or told me I was wrong for what I believed. So I kept it to myself and just told a few people in the inner circle of my inner circle.

Back then, if you would have told me that I was going to become a professional witch, it would have sent my system into shock. In fact, my whole coming out as a witch happened in the perfect way. I was playing music and performing and became obsessed with jazz and folk music from the 1920s. I wanted to put together a vaudeville show I could perform at clubs and cabarets around Los Angeles, so, since I already knew how to read tarot cards, I decided to take on the "persona" of an old-time fortune-teller. My act would involve me having a deck of tarot cards and audience members would come up, choose a card, and I would tell them a comic fortune based on that card. After that, the band and I would play a song associated with the meaning of that card. This vaudeville show was perfect for me; if anyone called me a weirdo, I could hide behind the fact that it was "all an act." However, the strange thing was this: nobody called me a crackpot. In fact, quite the opposite. After the show, people would come up and beg me for a tarot reading or ask me to read cards at their upcoming party.

So, the lesson of this for me was that I didn't need to be a scared little hermit crab hiding in my shell. I could show who I was and people would appreciate it. Does this mean I share every detail of my life with everyone out there? Nah. I am still a Cancer, after all, and I like to keep the mystery.

Cancers Are Too Clingy

Like a crab claw grabs and doesn't let go, sometimes a Cancer can be accused of holding on with a martial arts death grip. It doesn't matter if it's a person, a place, or a thing; if we love it being in our life, we can sometimes keep it past its expiration date. Remember what I said about Cancer sentimentality? We might remember what it used to be like and keep hoping, if we hang on, it will get back to that place. Alternatively, we might

see the potential in it and hope that if we donate some of our famous Cancerian energy and love to it, it will blossom.

In some cases, this can be material stuff in our lives. The little trinkets and objects that bring back memories of our childhood, for example. I can't be the only Cancer who has her first stuffed animal (in my case, a monkey named George). Cancers can sometimes surround themselves with mementoes or books or antiques or half-finished craft projects, and that stuff can sometimes create a situation of too much of a good thing. We might also stick with places beyond their time. Going back to the same diner that used to be so welcoming but now has become dingy and mediocre, for example, or continuing to try to succeed with a business that really has run its course.

But for most Cancer witches, this shows up with hanging on to relationships. Sometimes, we keep going back to the same person, wanting to believe we can get the relationship back to where it used to be. Other times, we look at a person in our lives and see all that they could be and keep investing in them, hoping they'll become the person we see them as.

It's our empathy and compassion that keep us there. When it comes to the things we love, we always give second, third, fourth chances (and often many more than that).

Some of our deepest work as Cancers is to get out of the illusion of what is possible, to see things as they really are, and to make some radical reassessments. If your family member keeps doing the same shady business with you time and time again, it may be time to create a bit of distance. If that person you're dating is fighting an addiction, your awakening will come when you realize that no matter how much you want them to give up their dependence, it really comes down to them wanting to make a change for the better.

Letting go may be one of the biggest challenges a Cancer faces, but magic is there to help you through this. After you have realized that it's time to let go of something, gear up for doing a spell during the waning Moon cycle. If it's things that you are getting rid of, you can burn incense over them before you donate or dispose of them to bless them on their way and give yourself

closure. If it's something that tugs more at your heartstrings, such as a project, business, or person, you can write their name on a piece of paper and burn it over a piece of aluminum foil. After the foil cools, wrap up the ashes of the paper and take it outside. Let the wind blow the ashes away as you say your farewells and then dispose of the foil away from your home. Doing ritual to support tough emotional work is the way magic and witchcraft can really support a Cancer witch.

Sweet Freedom

All this being said, revisiting all the blame and shame that Cancers receive for these traits isn't meant to bring you down. This section is made to show you the reasons you experience these things and to remind you that you have a choice in how you deal with them. Remember that one of our greatest traits is our ability to flow with change. We can even channel that change in the direction we wish it to go. Look for ways you can express the best parts of your sign and be free from judgement from others or yourself.

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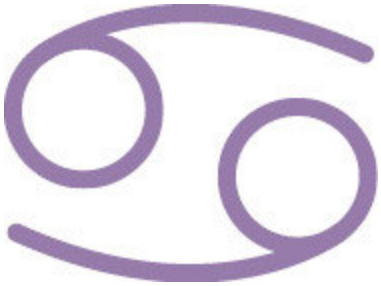
Postcard from a Cancer Witch

Durgadas Allon Duriel



I once conducted a poll on social media among Cancer Suns, Moons, and risings from the United States, and out of over one hundred sixty people, only 11 percent said they felt like American society values Cancerian qualities. I created that poll because I felt that denigration, too, and growing up as a Cancer against that backdrop, particularly as someone who was assigned male at birth, informs what being a Cancer witch means to me.

Many of the qualities traditionally associated with Cancer are looked at negatively in America and many other parts of the world; a high degree of compassion, empathy, sensitivity, imagination, and nurturing can become synonymous with someone who is seen as ineffectual or weak. Some even look at Cancers as the archetypal doormats or fraidy-cats of the zodiac. But I believe these qualities, when contextualized with healthy boundaries, are profound strengths, and they underlie my understanding and experience of being a Cancer witch.

The Cancerian heart resonates with life in a powerful way. I believe that is part of where these hallmark qualities come from. Nature sings within the archetype of Cancer, and this has been my experience, too. As cardinal water, Cancer is the energy of the cosmic womb, the birth canal of the universe itself. To be a Cancer witch, in my opinion and experience, is to find this power and knowing within. This power has nothing to do with

gender identity or assigned sex at birth. It is deeper than that and far older. At the same time, it is part of what we humans are, and that configuration of energies, the echoes of that dimension of existence, is an aspect of the sign of Cancer.

On a less mystical level, Cancer is associated with healing, and that is a strong part of my identity as a witch. Healing not simply in the sense of recovering from physical illness, but in the broader sense: having an innate awareness of disharmony in the energies of certain aspects of the human world, and an inclination to hold space for their healing. To be a nurturer of self and other, a steward of the land, and a friend to plants and animals. For me, all of this falls under the umbrella of the Cancer archetype, and therefore the purview of the Cancer witch. That doesn't mean these are exclusively Cancerian, but they do resonate with the archetype, a sort of overlap between what are known as green and kitchen witchcraft. I see this in my love of herbalism and the Earth, as well as in my work as a psychotherapist.

Cancer is also, like all water signs, fundamentally psychic, and that informs my identity as a Cancer witch, too. I feel the tides of the Moon within me, and while that can be jarring and unsettling at times, overall, I am grateful for it. I feel more connected to the greater whole because of that, and I know it is common for Cancers to be sensitive to the Moon in this way.

Nurturer, dreamer, imaginer, healer, empath, and aware child of Mother Earth—these are all qualities of Cancer, and I love the way that being a Cancer witch helps me deepen in my relationship to them, take ownership of them (regardless of what the society I come from might suggest), and embody them in my everyday life. If you are a Cancer and feel like these labels apply to you, know that is not just fanciful thinking. They are part of who you were born to be, and embracing them may facilitate profound healing and comfort for you. I know it has for me.

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Spirit of Cancer Guidance Ritual

Ivo Dominguez, Jr.

The signs are more than useful constructs in astrology or categories for describing temperaments, they are also powerful and complicated spiritual entities. So, what is meant when we say that a sign is a spirit? I often describe the signs of the zodiac as the twelve forms of human wisdom and folly. The signs are twelve styles of human consciousness, which also means the signs are well-developed group minds and egregores. Think on the myriad of people over thousands of years who have poured energy into the constructs of the signs through intentional visualization and study. Moreover, the lived experience of each person as one of the signs is deposited into the group minds and egregores of their sign; they are ensouled. Every Cancer who has ever lived or is living contributes to the spirit of Cancer.

The signs have a composite nature that allows them to exist in many forms on multiple planes of reality at once. In addition to the human contribution to their existence, the spirits of the signs are made from inputs from all living beings in our world whether they are made of dense matter or spiritual substances. These vast and ancient thoughtforms that became group minds and then egregores are also vessels that can be used by divine beings to communicate with humans. The spirits of the signs can manifest themselves as small as a sprite or larger than the Earth. The shape and magnitude of the spirit of Cancer emerging before you will depend on who you are and how and why you call upon them.

There are many good ways to be a witch and a multitude of well-developed approaches to performing rituals. The ritual described in this chapter may or may not match your accustomed style, but I encourage you to try it as it is written the first time. Once you've experienced it, you'll see which parts, if any, you wish to adjust to be a better fit for you. I'll give some suggestions on how to do so at the end of this chapter.

Purpose and Use

This ritual will make it possible to commune with the spirit of Cancer. The form the spirit will take will be different each time you perform the ritual. What appears will be determined by what you are looking for and your state of mind and soul. The process for preparing yourself for the ritual will do you good as well. Aligning yourself with the source and core of your energy is a useful practice in and of itself. Exploring your circumstances, motivations, and intentions is a valuable experience whether or not you are performing this ritual.

If you have a practical problem you are trying to solve or an obstacle that must be overcome, the spirit of Cancer may have useful advice. If you are trying to better understand who you are and what you are striving to accomplish, then the spirit of Cancer can be your mentor. Should you have a need to recharge yourself or flush out stale energy, you can use this ritual to reconnect with a strong clear current of power that is compatible with your core. This energy can be used for magickal empowerment, physical vitality, or healing or redirected for spell work. If you are charging objects or magickal implements with Cancer energy, this ritual can be used for this purpose as well.

Timing for the Ritual

The prevailing astrological conditions have an impact on how you experience a ritual, the type and amount of power available, and the outcomes of the work. If you decide you want to go deeper in your studies of astrology, you'll find many simple or elaborate techniques to either pick the best day and time or to adjust your ritual to work with what fits your schedule. Thankfully, the ritual to meet the spirit of your sign does not require exact timing or perfect astrological conditions. This ritual depends on your inner connection to your Sun sign, so it is not as reliant on the

external celestial conditions as some other rituals. Each of us has worlds within ourselves that include inner landscapes and inner skies. Your birth chart, and the sky it depicts, burns brightest within you. Although not required, you can improve the effectiveness of this ritual if you use any of the following simple guidelines for favorable times:

When the Moon or the Sun is in Cancer

When the Moon is full in any sign

On Monday, the day of the Moon, and even better at dawn

When the Moon is in Taurus, where it is exalted

Materials and Setup

The following is a description of the physical objects that will make it easier to perform this ritual. Don't worry if you don't have all of them; in a pinch, you need no props. However, the physical objects will help anchor the energy and your mental focus.

You will need:

A printout of your birth chart

A table to serve as an altar

A chair if you want to sit during the ritual

A small bowl or glass with water to represent the element of water

An assortment of items for the altar that correspond to Cancer or the Moon (for example, a moonstone, a slice of melon or some seaweed, and white flowers)

A pad and a pen or chalk and a small blackboard, or something else you can use to draw a glyph

Before beginning the ritual, you may wish to copy the ritual invocations onto paper or bookmark this chapter and bring the book into the ritual. I find that the process of writing out the invocation, whether handwritten or typed, helps forge a better connection with the words and their meaning. If possible, put the altar table in the center of your space, and if not, then as close to due east as you can manage. Place the bowl with water on the altar and hold your hand over it. Send sparks of energy from your hand to the water. Put the printout of your birth chart on the altar to one side of the water and arrange the items you have selected to anchor the Cancer and Moon energy around it. To the other side of the water, place the pad and pen. Make sure you turn off your phone, close the door, close the curtains, or do whatever else is needed to prevent distractions.

Ritual to Meet the Spirit of Your Sign

You may stand or be seated—whichever is the most comfortable for you. Begin by focusing on your breathing. When you pay attention to the process of breathing, you become more aware of your body, the flow of your life energy, and the balance between conscious and unconscious actions. After you have done so for about a minute, it is time to shift into fourfold breathing. This consists of four phases: inhaling, lungs full, exhaling, and lungs empty. You count to keep time so that each of the four phases is of equal duration. Try a count of four or five in your first efforts. Depending on your lungs and how fast you count, you will need to adjust the number higher or lower. When you hold your breath, hold it with your belly muscles, not your throat. When you hold your breath in fourfold breathing, your

throat should feel relaxed. Be gentle and careful with yourself if you have asthma, high blood pressure, are late in pregnancy, or have any other condition that may impact your breathing and blood pressure. In general, if there are difficulties, they arise during the lungs' full or empty phases because of holding them by clenching the throat or compressing the lungs. The empty and the full lungs should be held by the position of the diaphragm, and the air passages left open. After one to three minutes of fourfold breathing, you can return to your normal breathing pattern.

Now close your eyes and move your center of consciousness down into the middle of your chest. Proceed with grounding and centering, dropping and opening, shifting into the alpha state, or whatever practice you use to reach the state of mind that supports ritual work. Then gaze deeply inside yourself and find yourself sitting on the bench in a garden next to a water feature. Look at the beauty of the crystal and the plant materials. Take a breath and smell fresh air and refreshing fragrances. Dip your fingers into the water on your altar and awaken all the places and spaces within you that are of Cancer. When you feel ready, open your eyes.

Zodiac Casting

If you are seated, stand if you are able and face the east. Slowly read this invocation aloud, putting some energy into your words. As you read, slowly turn counterclockwise so that you come full circle when you reach the last line. Another option is to hold your hand over your head and trace the counterclockwise circle of the zodiac with your finger.

I call forth the twelve to join me in this rite.

I call forth Aries and the power of courage.

I call forth Taurus and the power of stability.

I call forth Gemini and the power of versatility.

I call forth Cancer and the power of protection.

I call forth Leo and the power of the will.

I call forth Virgo and the power of discernment.

I call forth Libra and the power of harmony.

I call forth Scorpio and the power of renewal.

I call forth Sagittarius and the power of vision.

I call forth Capricorn and the power of responsibility.

I call forth Aquarius and the power of innovation.

I call forth Pisces and the power of compassion.

The power of the twelve is here.

Blessed be!

Take a few deep breaths and shift your gaze to each item on the altar. Become aware of the changes in the atmosphere around you and the presence of the twelve signs.

Altar Work

Pick up the printout of your birth chart and look at your chart. Touch each of the twelve houses with your finger and push energy into them. You are energizing and awakening your birth chart to act as a focal point of power on the altar. Put your chart back on the altar when it feels ready to you. Then take the pad and pen and write the glyph for Cancer again and again. The glyphs can be different sizes, they can overlap—you can make any pattern with them you like so long as you pour energy into the ink as you write. Scribing the glyph is an action that helps draw the interest of the spirit of Cancer. Periodically look at the items on the altar as you continue scribing the glyph. When you feel sensations in your body, such as electric tingles,

warmth, shivers, or something that you associate with the approach of a spirit, it is time to move on to the next step. If these are new experiences for you, just follow your instincts. Put away the pen and paper and pick up the sheet with the invocation of Cancer.

Invoking Cancer

Before beginning to read this invocation, get in touch with your feelings. Think on what you hope to accomplish in this ritual and why it matters to you. Then speak these lines slowly and with conviction.

Cancer, hear me, for I am born of the sea's cardinal water.

Cancer, see me, for the Cancer Sun shines upon me.

Cancer, know me as a member of your family and your company.

Cancer, know me as your student and your protégé.

Cancer, know me as a conduit for your power.

Cancer, know me as a wielder of your magick.

I am of you, and you are of me.

I am of you, and you are of me.

I am of you, and you are of me.

Cancer is here, within and without.

Blessed be!

Your Requests

Close your eyes and look within for several deep breaths, and silently or aloud welcome the spirit of Cancer. Close your eyes and ask for any guidance that would be beneficial for you and listen. It may take some time before anything comes through, so be patient. I find it valuable to receive guidance before making a request so I can refine or modify intentions and outcomes. Consider the meaning of whatever impressions or guidance you received and reaffirm your intentions and desired outcomes for this ritual.

It is more effective to use multiple modes of communication to make your request. Speak silently or aloud the words that describe your need and how it could be solved. Visualize the same message but without the words and project the images on your mind's screen. Then put all your attention on your feelings and your bodily sensations that have been stirred up by contemplating your appeal to the spirit of Cancer. Once again wait and use all your physical and psychic senses to perceive what is given. At this point in the ritual, if there are objects to be charged, touch them or focus your gaze on them.

Offer Gratitude

You may be certain or uncertain about the success of the ritual or the time frame for the outcomes to become clear. Regardless of that, it is a good practice to offer thanks and gratitude to the spirit of Cancer for being present. Also, thank yourself for doing your part of the work. The state of heart and mind that comes with thanks and gratitude makes it easier for the work to become manifest. Thanks and gratitude also act as a buffer against the unintended consequences that can be put into motion by rituals.

Release the Ritual

If you are seated, stand if you are able and face the east. Slowly turn clockwise until you come full circle while repeating the following or something similar.

Return, return oh turning wheel to your starry home.

Farewell, farewell oh deep-hearted Cancer until we speak again.

Another option while saying these words is to hold your hand over your head and trace a clockwise circle of the zodiac with your finger. When you are done, look at your chart on the altar and say,

It is done. It is done. It is done.

Afterward

I encourage you to write down your thoughts and observations of what you experienced in the ritual. Do this while it is still fresh in mind before the details begin to blur. The information will become more useful over time as you work more with the spirit of Cancer. It will also let you evaluate the outcomes of your workings and improve your process in future workings. This note- taking or journaling will also help you dial in any changes or refinements to this ritual for future use. Contingent upon the guidance you received or the outcomes you desire, you may want to add reminders to your calendar.

More Options

These are some modifications to this ritual that you may wish to try:

Put together or purchase Cancer incense to burn during the ritual. A Cancer oil to anoint the altar bowl is another possibility. I'm providing one of my oil

recipes as an option.

Set up a richer and deeper altar. In addition to adding more objects that resonate to the energy of Cancer or the Moon, consecrate each object before the ritual. You may also want to place an altar cloth on the table that brings to mind Cancer, the Moon, or the element of water.

Creating a sigil to concentrate the essence of what you are working toward would be a good addition to the altar.

Consider adding chanting, free-form toning, or movement to raise energy for the altar work and/or for invoking Cancer.

If you feel inspired, you can write your own invocations for calling the zodiac and/or invoking Cancer. This is a great way to deepen your understanding of the signs and to personalize your ritual.

Rituals have greater personal meaning and effectiveness when you personalize them and make them your own.

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Cancer Anointing Oil Recipe

Ivo Dominguez, Jr.

This oil is used for charging and consecrating candles, crystals, and other objects you use in your practice. This oil makes it easier for an object to be imbued with Cancer energy. It also primes and tunes the objects so that your will and power as a Cancer witch flow more easily into them. Do not apply it to your skin unless you have done an allergy test first.

Ingredients:

Carrier oil—1 ounce

Myrrh—8 drops

Lemon balm—4 drops

Clary sage—4 drops

Lemon—2 drops

Bay—4 drops

Pour one ounce of a carrier oil into a small bottle or vial. The preferred carrier oils are almond oil or fractionated coconut oil, but others can be used. Ideally use essential oils, but fragrance oils can be used as substitutes. Add the drops of the essential oils into the carrier oil. Once they have all been added, cap the bottle tightly, and shake the bottle several times. Hold the bottle in your hands, take a breath, and pour energy into the oil. Visualize silvery energy, the glyph for Cancer, repeat the word Cancer, and

raise energy in your preferred manner. Continue doing so until the oil feels warm, seems to glow, or you sense it is charged.

Label the bottle and store the oil in a cool, dark place. Consider keeping a little bit of each previous batch of oil to add to the new batch. This helps build the strength and continuity of the energy and intentions you have placed into the oil. Over time, that link makes your oils more powerful.

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Better Every Day: The Way Forward

Madame Pamita

So now that you've learned everything there is to know about being a Cancer witch, what do you do with all this? Yes, witches gonna witch, but how do you amp up your special gifts, play things in the way that flows the easiest, and express your Cancer witchiness to its fullest? Start making being a Cancer witch part of your daily practice.

I always advocate making magic an everyday occurrence. Yes, it's amazing to dress up and gather with a coven under a full Moon, but if you're only doing your spells on special occasions, there is so much magic on which you are missing out. Just like training for a sport, if you do a little bit of witchcraft every day, you're going to level up to being a badass witch in no time. Here are some ways Cancers can bring magic into their lives on a regular basis.

Morning Incantations

As a Cancer witch, you're probably busy taking care of your loved ones and having a job and a side hustle. Self-care is most likely relegated to a once-in-a-while event. With that kind of schedule, you might think that you don't have time to breathe, let alone make any magic, but you do! You just have to incorporate it into what you already do.

In the morning, while you're brushing your teeth and getting ready for the day, you can use the bathroom as your personal temple of incantation. Incantations are magic spell words, and while we might think of them as rhymed couplets, any words of intention can be an incantation. That means

that what are popularly known as affirmations are just incantations in disguise.

We think and say so many judgmental things toward ourselves on a daily basis. Let's be honest: words can hurt our tender feelings, and the words we say to ourselves can sometimes cut the deepest. So, it's powerful to turn that on its head at the top of the day, and tell ourselves encouraging and uplifting things. Make it a practice when you are standing in front of the mirror in the morning to look into your own eyes and cast a spell of empowerment on yourself. Speak empowering phrases and make them magical and fun. You can tell yourself "I am a mermaid queen/King Neptune" to bring in more self-confidence or "I flow with the ups and downs of life like a powerful river" when you're faced with some challenges. I like to keep a list of empowering phrases tucked into the frame of my mirror just to give me some inspiration if I haven't had enough coffee yet to come up with an incantation on the fly.

Dream Journaling

Cancer witches move so easily into the realm of the mystical that our dream time can become part of our daily magic. I often find my dreams have something important to tell me, whether it's a symbol that I can interpret, a solution to a problem, or a visit from someone far away. While we sleep, our soul travels to other realms and gets refreshed to face the day in waking life. If we reflect on our dreams, we can access that healing all day long.

If you're a person who remembers their dreams easily, you can note your dreams in a journal and write about what they mean to you. You can also use a dream dictionary if you like, but I find that your own personal symbolism is often more powerful and meaningful than generic interpretations.

If you have trouble remembering your dreams in the morning, there are a few things you can do to help your brain recall these helpful messages. Before you go to sleep, say a simple incantation out loud three times, such

as, “I will remember my dreams.” Get into a sleep cycle where you go to sleep around the same time every night (yes, even on weekends) and go to sleep early enough that you can wake up without an alarm. When you wake up, don’t just jump right out of bed. Allow yourself some time to drift in and out of sleep, then try to remember what you dreamed. If you have others in your home, share what you remember about your dream with them (even if it’s indescribable). If you’re on your own, write down anything you can remember about your dreams. After a few days of doing this, you will start to remember more and more of your dreams and can start recording the messages you get from them in your dream journal.

Adding Magic to Your Meals

Bring together four of your Cancer witch specialties by blending cooking, family, magic, and history. Every culture has some food magic, whether it’s a magical herb or a special witchy dish. For example, in Ukrainian spiritual practice, bread and salt are given to guests as a sacred gift of welcome. There is a tradition of the guest tearing off a piece of bread, dipping it into a small bowl of salt, and then eating it to accept the host’s hospitality. Look into your ancestral heritage and learn some traditional recipes, food rituals, and how the ingredients or the dish itself intersects with magic. Serve these sacred foods to your loved ones or honored guests.

Not every meal has to be a big magical production, however. You can turn any food or drink into a spell by putting intention and blessings into it. Hold your hands over your morning cup of coffee, close your eyes, and infuse it with your intentions for the day (coffee is a great ingredient for motivation and productivity spells). Or do the same over the pan of lasagna you’ve just taken out of the oven before you serve it to your loved ones to bless them for health and happiness. Whenever you eat or drink this blessed food, you are taking the blessing into your body—powerful magic indeed!

Set Up a Home Altar

You can make your home more magical by setting up a home altar or two. Altars can be created for specific intentions, to honor deities, or to invite your ancestors to be close. An altar can be as simple as a small table, windowsill, or bookshelf.

You can create a home altar to bring prosperity into your home, for example, by placing a green cloth over a side table and placing a green, yellow, or gold candle on it, along with some artifacts that represent wealth, such as a dish of coins and either dried herbs or a potted plant such as basil, thyme, or chamomile.

You can honor sacred spirits, saints, or deities by setting up an altar with their image, either a piece of art or a statue, and fresh flowers or candles, and any special items that are associated with them. For example, if you were creating an altar to honor the goddess Aphrodite, you might decorate it with scallop shells, roses, pearls, and images of swans.

You can also invite the protection and blessing of your ancestors by creating an altar to honor them. Place framed photographs of your ancestors who have passed on and light a long-burning candle to them. You can place special trinkets that belonged to them on the altar as well, such as jewelry pieces, notes they wrote, or other small items that were special to them. Leave an offering of their favorite foods or drinks every day or two.

Practice Divination

Cancer witches are known for their amazing psychic and intuitive gifts, so spending some time to develop your talents here can let your special Cancer magic blossom! Taking on learning a complex divination system such as tarot might be a long-term goal, but there are also ways to practice divination that bring more immediate gratification.

Working with a pendulum is one of the easiest methods for getting accurate answers to yes-no questions. You can purchase a dedicated pendulum made from a carved gemstone or simply make one yourself in a pinch by tying a small item with some weight to the end of a string or thread.

A special coin—either a fortune-telling coin or one that has special meaning for you—can be used as a divination tool, too. Just ask a yes-no question and ask the spirits, your deities, or your own inner knowing to give you an answer. Heads means yes and tails means no.

Cancers are often booklovers, so bibliomancy is another old form of divination you might like to try. Take a favorite book and ask a question out loud. Then close your eyes and open up to a random spot and place your finger on the page. It is believed that the sentence your finger is touching will have an answer to your question.

You can also look for omens out in the world. Ask a question and then go for a walk. Did you notice anything unusual? Words, animals, images that stand out may have a special meaning in regard to your concern.

Making Cancer Witchcraft an Everyday Thing

Bathing, sleeping, cooking, getting ready in the morning …

every part of your day can include a small magical ritual or become imbued with intention. Look at the things you do every day and invent some ways to weave magic into them. Cancers are one of the most imaginative signs, so you can get inventive in the ways you make your daily life more magical.

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Conclusion

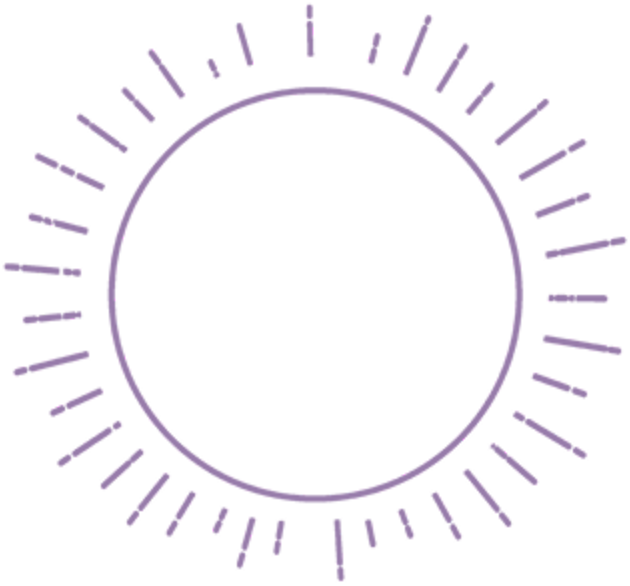
Ivo Dominguez, Jr.

Ihope you are putting what you discovered in this book to use in your witchcraft. You may have a desire to learn more about how astrology and witchcraft fit together. One of the best ways to do this is to talk about it with other practitioners. Look for online discussions, and if there is a local metaphysical shop, check to see if they have classes or discussion groups. If you don't find what you need, consider creating a study group. Learning more about your own birth chart is also an excellent next step. Some resources for study are listed in the back of this book.

At some point you may wish to call upon the services of an astrologer to give you a reading that is fine tuned to your chart. There are services that provide not just charts but full chart readings that are generated by software. These are a decent tool and more economical than a professional astrologer, but they lack the finesse and intuition that only a person can offer. Nonetheless, they can be a good starting point. If you do decide to hire an astrologer to do your chart, shop around to find someone attuned to your spiritual needs. You may decide to learn enough astrology to read your own chart, and that will serve you for many reasons. However, for the same reasons that tarot readers will go to someone else for a reading, the same is true with astrological readers. It is hard to see some things when you are too attached to the outcomes.

If you find that your interest in astrology and its effect on a person's relationship to witchcraft has been stimulated by this book, you may wish to read the other books in this series. Additionally, if you have other witches whom you work with, you'll find that knowing more about how they approach their craft will make your collective efforts more productive. Understanding them better will also help reduce conflicts or

misunderstandings. The ending of this book is really the beginning of the adventure.



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Appendix

Cancer Correspondences

June 22–July 22/23

Symbol:

Solar System: Moon, Pluto, Sun

Season: Summer

Day: Monday

Time of Day: Twilight

Celebration: Midsummer's Eve

Runes: Elhaz, Ur

Element: Water

Colors: Blue (Light), Grey, Green (Sea), Orange, Pink, Silver, White, Yellow

Energy: Yin

Chakras: Sacral, Solar Plexus, Heart

Numbers: 2, 3, 6

Tarot: Chariot, High Priestess

Trees: Alder (Black), Apple, Chestnut, Holly, Horse Chestnut, Maple, Mimosa, Oak, Pine, Spruce

Herb and Garden: Agrimony, Catnip, Chamomile, Daisy, Dill, Gardenia, Geranium, Honeysuckle, Jasmine, Lemon Balm, Marigold, Mugwort, Poppy, Rose, Violet

Miscellaneous Plants: Aloe, Betony, Lotus, Moonwort, Myrrh, Sandalwood, Water Lily, Wormwood

Gemstones and Minerals: Agate, Amber, Beryl, Calcite, Carnelian, Emerald, Moonstone, Opal, Quartz (Clear), Rose Quartz, Ruby, Sapphire, Selenite, Zircon (Red)

Metal: Silver

From the Sea: Mother-of-Pearl, Pearl

Goddesses: Artemis, Ceres, Demeter, Diana, Isis, Juno, Kuan Yin, Luna

God: Mercury

Angel: Gabriel

Animal: Dog

Birds: Blackbird, Ibis, Seagull

Insect: Beetle

Marine Life: Crab, Octopus, Turtle

Issues, Intentions, and Powers: Beginnings, Change, Connections, Consciousness (Subconscious), Determination, Emotions, Family, The Home, Imagination, Introspection, Intuition, Love, Magic (General, Moon), Moods, Nurture, Protection, Psychic Ability, Romance, Secrets, Sensitivity, Shyness, Support, Sympathy

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Excerpted with permission from Llewellyn's Complete Book of Correspondences: A Comprehensive & Cross-Referenced Resource for Pagans & Wiccans © 2013 by Sandra Kynes.

Resources

Online

Astrodienst: Free birth charts and many resources.

https://www.astro.com/horoscope

Astrolabe: Free birth chart and software resources.

https://alabe.com

The Astrology Podcast: A weekly podcast hosted by professional astrologer Chris Brennan.

https://theastrologypodcast.com

Magazine

The world's most recognized astrology magazine (available in print and digital formats).

https://mountainastrologer.com

Books

Practical Astrology for Witches and Pagans by Ivo Dominguez, Jr.

Parkers' Astrology: The Definitive Guide to Using Astrology in Every Aspect of Your Life byJulia and Derek Parker

The Inner Sky: How to Make Wiser Choices for a More Fulfilling Life bySteven Forrest

Predictive Astrology: Tools to Forecast Your Life and Create Your Brightest Future byBernadette Brady

Chart Interpretation Handbook: Guidelines for Understanding the Essentials of the Birth Chart byStephen Arroyo

Cunningham's Book of Shadows: The Path of an American Traditionalist by Scott Cunningham

Llewellyn's Moon Sign Datebook

Decks

It's Your Karma: Past-Life Reincarnation Oracle Card Deck by Kathy Dannel Vitcak

Archetype Cards by Carolyn Myss

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You will need:

Water

Bowl

Mugwort

A silver item (coin, piece of jewelry)

This could be performed at any time, but it is better performing it during the planetary hour of the Moon. Silver is the metal of the Moon and thus connects to Cancer, so a piece of it will help. You could use a silver coin, a piece of silver jewelry, or something that is silver in color.

Take a few deep cleansing breaths. Place the silver item into the bowl, saying,

Silver like the rays of the Moon,

Cauldron of Wisdom, seat of intuition be blessed.

Next, pour the water into the bowl, saying,

Water, current of life,

Cauldron of Motion, seat of emotion be blessed.

Sprinkle a few pinches of mugwort into the water. Mugwort also has an association with the Moon, cleansing, and protection. Say,

Mugwort to cleanse and banish,

Cauldron of Warming, seat of vitality be blessed.

Stir the water with your finger a few times. See a brilliant cleansing light descend from above and infuse the waters. When you are ready, anoint your forehead with the water, saying,

I claim my thoughts, ideas, and mental spaces.

They are my own, may they be cleansed.

I am focused, centered, and clear-minded.

Visualize the energy in the bowl flowing into your brow and cleansing it. See any energies you wish to wash away flowing away from you and dissolving. Spend a few moments considering this energetic cauldron. Do you receive any messages? Any sparks of intuition? When you are ready, anoint the center of your chest, saying,

I claim my joy, my love of self.

I honor my own heart,

I do not give too much to the world.

Visualize a brilliant energy flowing into the center of your body, cleansing it. Spend a few moments considering this energetic cauldron; does it have any message for you? When you are ready, anoint your pelvis area, saying,

I claim sovereignty over my body,

I am aware of its needs and meet them.

May I be filled with strength and healing.

Visualize a brilliant energy flowing into your pelvis, cleansing it. Spend a few moments considering this energetic cauldron; does it have any message for you? When you are ready to finish the spell, say,

I am whole and cleansed!

The Cauldrons shine within me!

So mote it be!

Pour the water outside on the ground. If possible, carry the silver item with you to help you stay cleansed and protected.

Body, Mind & Spirit / Witchcraft

Witchcraft to Celebrate Your Imaginative & Sensitive Self

Nourish your magical practice and personal development with the power of your Cancer Sun sign. Ivo Dominguez, Jr. and Madame Pamita share what strengths and challenges your sign brings to both witchcraft and everyday life. Featuring recipes, exercises, stories, rituals, and spells from the authors and a host of Cancerian contributors, this book teaches you how to best connect with your sign's energy, manage your power, cleanse and shield yourself, tailor-fit magical workings to your sign, and more.

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